

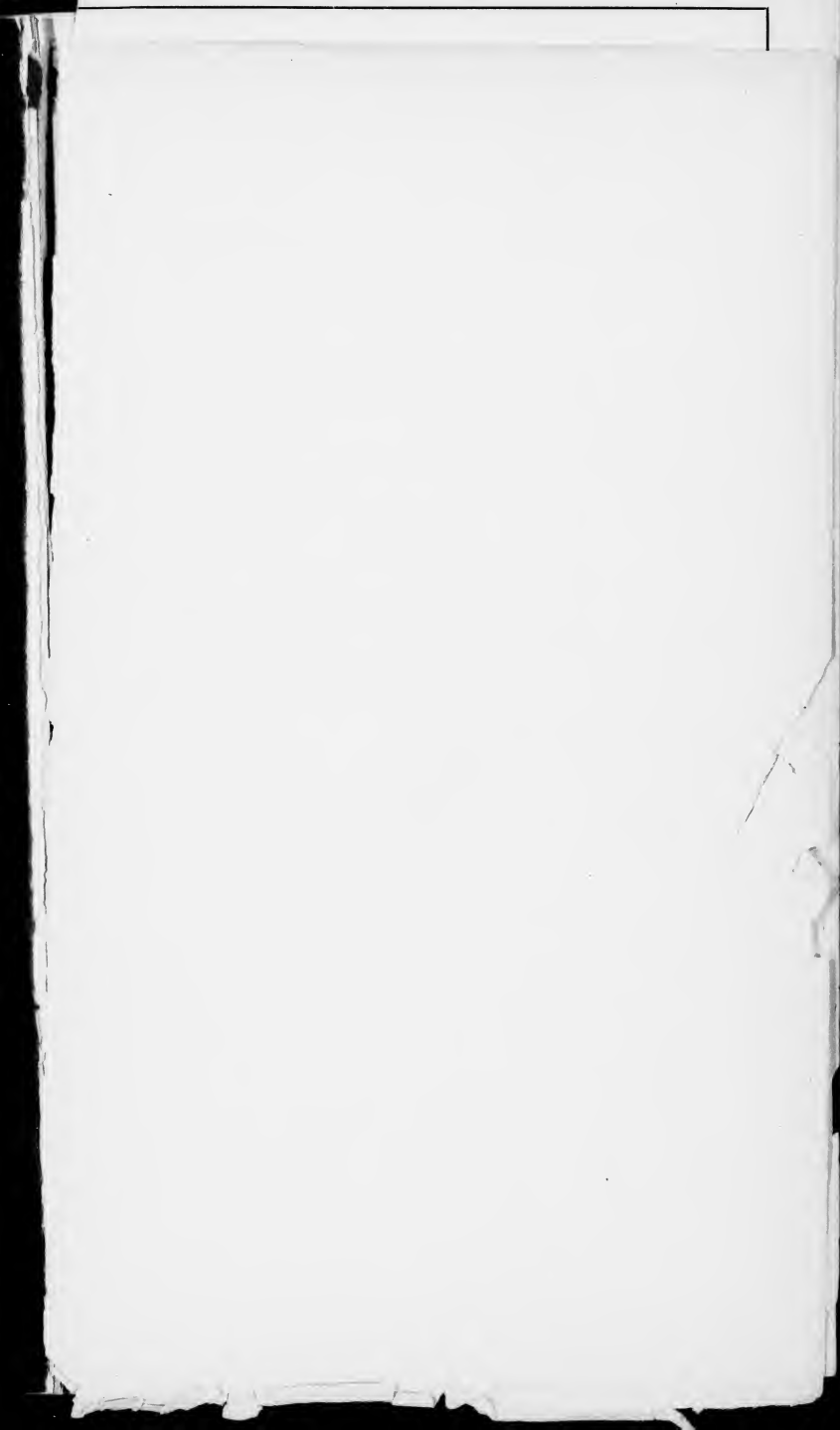
**Report of the
Commissioners
of the
District of
Columbia**

1922/1923

(Washington, DC)



P. L. 841-10 M-1-12-23





REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

FOR THE YEAR
ENDED JUNE 30

*District of Columbia.
Commissioners.
T: Report*

1923



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1923

100

WASH.

REF.

352.0753

D614

1922/1923

425683 of

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 3, 1923.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia transmit herewith their report of the transactions of the government of the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, as required by law.

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL.

On April 13, 1923, Commissioner Charles Keller retired from duty as a commissioner of the District of Columbia.

Maj. Frank Schafer Besson, as senior assistant to the engineer commissioner, thereafter discharged the duties of the office so vacated until June 25, 1923, in accordance with the provisions of the act of Congress, approved December 24, 1890.

On June 25, 1923, Maj. James Franklin Bell, of the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, took the oath of office as a commissioner.

On June 15, 1923, Maj. William Henry Holcombe, of the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army, entered upon duty as an assistant to the engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia.

FINANCES OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The cash receipts of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, amounted to \$24,729,788.57, made up as follows: Revenue of the District of Columbia from taxes and miscellaneous sources, \$15,819,702.52; amount paid by the United States on account of its proportion of appropriations, \$8,910,086.05.

The collections from taxes on real estate for the fiscal year 1923 amounted to \$9,473,811.34; collections from taxes on personal property, including taxes on gross earnings and receipts of public utilities, banks, and building associations and on gross receipts of street railway companies, \$2,779,603.10; and collections from taxes on intangible personal property, \$1,723,443.10. Collections from miscellaneous sources, amounting to \$1,842,844.98, made up the balance of the District's revenue.

The sum of \$275,000 was transferred from the revenues of the District of Columbia to meet the payment of policemen's and firemen's pensions during the fiscal year 1923.

The gross revenue collections of the District for 1923, therefore, amounted to \$16,094,702.52.

The cash expenditures for the fiscal year 1923 from appropriations amounted to \$21,814,392.64, classified as follows:

General government	\$1,236,284.89
Protection of life and property	3,766,000.01
Health and sanitation	2,111,017.19
Highways	2,273,945.39
Charities and corrections	2,942,781.36
Education	7,679,126.95
Recreation	1,095,633.30
Miscellaneous	142,110.29
Public-service enterprises	567,493.26

Pursuant to the provisions of the act of Congress approved June 29, 1922, entitled "An act to provide additional compensation for certain civilian employees of the Governments of the United States and the District of Columbia during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923," there has been charged to the revenues of the District of Columbia the sum of \$78,544.72, representing 60 per cent of increase of compensation (commonly known as the "bonus") paid to certain employees of the Federal Government and employees of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia and Court of Appeals, the increase of compensation in the first instance having been paid to these employees wholly from Federal appropriations for that purpose.

There also has been charged to the revenues of the District of Columbia the sum of \$233,707.51, representing the amount found by the joint select committee appointed under the provisions of the District appropriation act approved June 29, 1922, to be equitably due the United States. This amount has been transferred to the credit of the revenues of the United States, thus discharging in full all sums equitably or legally due the United States as the result of the investigation conducted by the said committee. The District, on the other hand, has claimed credit for \$665.46, representing certain items which the committee found to be equitably due the District.

No final adjustment has so far been made with reference to the distribution of certain miscellaneous items of revenue as between the United States and the District. The District appropriation act for the fiscal year 1923 provided for the division of such items between the United States and the District which theretofore were credited wholly to the District of Columbia. The Comptroller General of the United States, in a decision rendered to the commissioners in April, 1923, decided the proportions in which such items were to be divided. Because of the need of further investigation regarding revenue items not covered by the Comptroller General's decision, but included in a subsequent decision rendered by that officer, it has been informally agreed between the auditor's office of the District of Columbia and the General Accounting Office that the necessary adjustments to effect credits to the United States would be held in abeyance until the entire subject could be finally and conclusively settled in one transaction.

TRUST AND SPECIAL FUNDS.

The collections on account of trust and special funds for the fiscal year 1923 amounted to \$3,096,191.04, water revenues representing

\$1,183,193.08 of this total; policemen's and firemen's relief fund, \$316,053.61; miscellaneous trust-fund deposits, \$1,049,373.18; fund for redemption of real estate from tax sales, \$234,257.94; teachers' retirement fund, \$232,264.81; and the balance being collections for a number of miscellaneous trust and special funds.

The expenditures on account of trust and special funds during the fiscal year 1923 amounted to \$2,976,836.54. Included in this amount were expenditures for the water department, \$1,207,668.14; for the policemen's and firemen's relief fund, \$296,152.08; miscellaneous trust-fund deposits, \$1,013,578.99; Washington redemption fund, \$184,100.90; and teachers' retirement fund, \$214,355.58.

CASH BALANCES, JUNE 30, 1923.

The cash balance to the credit of the general fund of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States on June 30, 1923, amounted to \$9,401,667.80, and to the credit of trust and special funds, \$686,614.55. In addition to these amounts balances, as shown by the accompanying statements, were held to the credit of the disbursing officer of the District of Columbia with the Treasurer of the United States.

The difference between the general fund balance of \$9,401,667.80, stated above, and the surplus of revenues of the District of Columbia in the Treasury, referred to in the following paragraphs, is accounted for by the unexpended balances of appropriations of the District of Columbia on June 30, 1923. Provision is made from in the general fund for the District's proportions of unexpended appropriation balances, so that the surplus revenues represent moneys belonging to the District in the Treasury over and above all charges.

DISTRICT REVENUES.

On July 1, 1920, the surplus revenues of the District of Columbia in the Treasury of the United States, in excess of appropriations and other charges against such revenues to that date, amounted to \$4,648,666.69. This amount accumulated between June 30, 1916, and June 30, 1920, while the half-and-half plan of appropriating for the District was in operation. During the fiscal year 1921, the surplus revenues were increased by \$512,171.86, making a total of surplus revenues belonging to the District on June 30, 1921, of \$5,160,838.55. During the fiscal year 1922, the surplus revenues were increased by \$342,113.04, making a total of \$5,502,951.59 of surplus revenues belonging to the District on June 30, 1922. On June 30, 1923, the surplus revenues amounted to \$5,122,343.35.

The revenues of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1923, including credits arising from lapsed appropriations, available to meet appropriation charges of that year, amounted to \$16,680,330.01, from which the sum of \$275,000 was transferred to the credit of the policemen's and firemen's relief fund. This left \$16,405,330.01 to meet the District's proportion of appropriation charges for the fiscal year 1923.

The appropriations of the District of Columbia for the fiscal year 1923, payable by the United States and the District of Columbia, amounted to \$27,231,343.01. The charge against the District of

Columbia under these appropriations totaled \$16,547,789.23. This left an apparent deficit in District revenues for the fiscal year 1923 to meet appropriation charges of \$142,459.22. The total appropriation charge, however, of \$27,231,343.01, included items contained in the District appropriation act for the fiscal year 1924, for street improvements, buildings and grounds and public schools, increasing the water supply, and site for a branch library, all which were made available for immediate expenditure. These immediately available appropriations totaled \$3,398,300, so that the appropriation proper for the service of the fiscal year 1923 were only \$23,833,043.01. Under the accounting procedure governing the stating of the annual account between the United States and the District of Columbia, appropriations made immediately available, although in fact for the service of the following fiscal year, become a charge against the revenues of the year in which the appropriation act is approved.

BONDED DEBT.

On June 30, 1922, the outstanding 3.65 per cent District of Columbia bonds amounted to \$4,719,700. During the fiscal year 1923, \$130,450 of these bonds were purchased and canceled, leaving the amount of bonds outstanding on June 30, 1923, \$4,589,250. The sinking-fund assets amount to \$4,423,640.91, thus making the net indebtedness of the District of Columbia on June 30, 1923, \$165,609.09. The District of Columbia has no other form of indebtedness than that represented by its outstanding 3.65 bonds.

The 50-year period for which the 3.65 bonds were issued, the issue being limited by law to \$15,000,000, will expire August 1, 1924. The sinking-fund assets, represented entirely by investments in bonds and certificates of the United States, will, with an appropriation of \$300,000 in the District appropriation act for the fiscal year 1925, be sufficient to discharge in full the 3.65 outstanding bonds.

ASSESSMENT OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.

REAL-ESTATE ASSESSMENTS.

The act of Congress approved September 1, 1916, provides that real estate in the District of Columbia shall be assessed every two years. The assessment beginning July 1, 1922—that is, for the fiscal year 1923—is as follows:

Assessed value of land, \$335,538,719; assessed value of improvements, \$387,660,549; or a total assessment of real estate in the District of Columbia for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, of \$723,199,268. Against this assessment a rate of \$1.30 per hundred dollars was levied, making a tax of \$9,401,590.48.

For the previous year the assessment amounted to \$472,874,209, which, at a rate of \$1.82 per hundred dollars, yielded a tax of \$8,606,310.60.

PERSONAL-TAX ASSESSMENTS.

The personal-tax levy for the fiscal year 1923 produced in revenue a grand total of \$4,560,311.91, derived from three classes of assessments. First, an amount derived from a levy of \$1.30 per hundred

dollars' worth on household furniture (above \$1,000 value), merchandise, jewelry, boats, vehicles, horses, etc., or what is commonly known as tangible personal property. Such tax amounted to \$1,138,653.88. Second class, a tax on the gross earnings of banks, trust companies, and public-service corporations to the amount of \$1,596,262.58. Third class, a tax levied on moneys and credits, including moneys loaned and invested, bonds and shares of stock, or what is generally known as an intangible personal property tax, the amount of this being \$1,825,395.45.

YEARLY ADDITIONS.

The assessment of new buildings amounted to about \$28,500,000 and additions to \$2,200,000, and gas mains, conduits, etc., to \$300,000, making a total of \$31,000,000, from which is to be taken property removed or destroyed to the extent of about \$400,000, and exempt property amounting to \$1,230,000, leaving a net amount of \$29,470,000.

Personal tax for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923.

	Assessment.	Tax.
Tangible personal property, at \$1.30 per \$100.....	\$87,588,759.73	\$1,138,653.88
Bonding and title companies, at 1 1/4 per cent on gross receipts.....	1,426,093.25	21,391.40
Building and loan associations, at 2 per cent on gross earnings.....	1,918,230.00	38,364.60
Savings banks, incorporated, 4 per cent on gross earnings less interest.....	1,297,755.00	51,910.20
Electric light companies, at 4 per cent on gross earnings.....	3,725,395.00	149,015.80
Telephone companies, at 4 per cent on gross earnings.....	4,796,485.00	191,859.40
Street railway companies, at 4 per cent on gross receipts.....	10,543,007.02	421,720.29
Gas-light companies, at 5 per cent on gross earnings.....	2,849,450.00	142,472.50
Georgetown Barge, Dock, Elevator & Ry. Co., at 5 per cent on gross earnings.....	18,347.85	917.39
National banks, at 6 per cent on gross earnings.....	4,963,580.00	297,814.80
Trust companies, at 6 per cent on gross earnings.....	4,638,270.00	278,296.20
Private bankers, at \$500 per annum.....		2,500.00
Total.....	123,765,372.85	2,734,916.46
Decrease in tangible tax, 1923 from 1922.....		364,277.27
Intangible personal property, 1923, at five-tenths of 1 per cent.....	365,079,089.00	1,825,395.45
Increase in intangible tax, 1923 over 1922.....		818,145.99
Grand total.....		4,560,311.91

Number of accounts, tangible property only.....	16,478
Number of accounts, intangible property only.....	7,399
Number of accounts having both tangible and intangible property.....	33,033

Total number of accounts, tangible and intangible, 1923..... 56,910

Although the personal-property accounts numbered nearly 60,000 in 1923, but little more than half of these accounts were based on returns. Such returns, however, furnished data upon which 75 per cent of the tax was levied. This year—that is, during the month of July, 1923—there were received an unprecedented number of returns, probably over 50,000, as against 33,000 for the previous year. It appears, therefore, that about five-sixths of the accounts will be based on these returns and that about 90 per cent of the amount of the levy will arise from these returns. Such activity on the part of the public will materially lessen the duties of the field force and will serve to make a better equalized and more accurate assessment. July has been considered a wrong period of the year for taking in returns, but newspaper publicity was a great factor in causing the citizens to call at the personal-tax office, and, in fact, the papers

inserted a great deal of matter in the news columns in an endeavor to acquaint the public with a general gist of the personal tax law.

REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT AT FULL VALUE.

The biennial assessment of real estate which was completed by the three assistant assessors by January 1, 1923, was open to inspection and review from the first Monday in January to the first Monday in June, 1923, and became effective July 1, 1923. The field work was done by the assistant assessors during the year 1922.

By act of Congress approved June 29, 1922, Public No. 256 (District appropriation act), it is provided, among other things, that "there is levied for each of the fiscal years ending June 30, 1923, 1924, 1925, 1926, and 1927 a tax at such rate on the full value, and no less, of all real estate and tangible personal property subject to taxation in the District of Columbia," etc.

The new assessment marks a period in which the assistant assessors for the first time since 1902 were required to have under consideration full-value amounts for assessment purposes, as the full-value figures of 1922 and 1923 were derived from adding 50 per cent to a previous assessment listed at two-thirds valuation.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT WORK.

The amount of special assessment work set forth in the following statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923:

Assessment and permit work-----	\$187, 918. 01
Roadways-----	103, 493. 58
Assessment levied by juries for street extensions, opening minor streets and alleys, and for building lines-----	78, 479. 69
Total -----	369, 891. 28
Number of notices served during the year-----	6, 943
Number of tax certificates examined-----	21, 065
Amounts levied under different characters of work:	
Sidewalks-----	\$24, 884. 80
Curb-----	19, 117. 16
Sewers-----	89, 053. 03
Paving alleys-----	54, 863. 02
Total -----	187, 918. 01
Extension of streets, minor streets, alleys, etc.:	
Street extensions-----	61, 857. 17
Opening minor streets and alleys-----	11, 752. 98
Building lines-----	4, 869. 54
Total -----	78, 479. 69

OWNERSHIP AND TRANSFERS OF PROPERTY.

During the year the assessor's office has entered data relating to the transfers of 15,955 pieces of property as against 13,433 of last year. Two clerks are continually employed in examining deeds among the land records, and one clerk is employed copying data from the office of the register of wills.

WATER MAIN TAX DIVISION.

During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, water-main assessments were levied to the amount of \$127,415.34 as against \$112,-684.91 of last year, making an increase of \$14,730.43. The collections are:

Water-main taxes collected.....	\$115, 147. 10
Water-main taxes collected by sale, March, 1923.....	9, 121. 71
Interest collected.....	4, 103. 48
Total	128, 372. 29
Excess of 1923, collections over 1922.....	41, 946. 73
Number of tax notices served.....	855
Number of tax certificates examined.....	21, 063

SUMMARY.

During the year the office has prepared 30 assessment ledgers giving a complete record of all taxable real and personal property, all ledgers being forwarded to the collector of taxes for his permanent records. The accounts in these ledgers have been arranged for many years in alphabetical order, as the law requires property to be assessed in the name of the owner, when known, and when not known to be assessed "Owner unknown." In addition, the law requires the assessment to be made by square and lot or parcel number. This year, that is, for 1923 and 1924, the real estate ledgers are prepared in numerical order with the intention of throwing all bills into alphabetical order. This will give a check from year to year by block amounts or sectional amounts, and such a system is rendered necessary for a proper method of accounting.

LICENSE BUREAU.

During the past fiscal year there was collected a grand total of \$612,855.35 from the following sources: Motor-vehicle tags, \$401,711; operator's permits, \$42,137.50; miscellaneous licenses, \$166,785.85; duplicate tags, \$1,864; engineer's licenses, \$357. During the same period last year there was collected a total of \$512,480.28, the net increase being \$100,375.07.

Receipts from licenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923.

	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.	Number.
Apothecaries.....	\$1, 588. 00		\$5. 50	282
Auctioneers.....	1, 216. 70	\$208. 36		16
Auctioneers' permits.....	80. 00	25. 00		16
Auto storage.....	7, 430. 94	270. 67		131
Bill posters.....	60. 00		6. 66	3
Billiards, pool, etc., and shooting galleries.....	9, 836. 00	342. 00		157
Boarding houses.....	50. 00			1
Baths, mediums, etc.....	2, 022. 98		74. 98	89
Cattle dealers.....	78. 75		45. 00	6
Commission merchants.....	1, 233. 34		36. 66	34
Cigar dealers.....	25, 213. 00	872. 00		2, 258
Contractors, building.....	7, 500. 64	5, 888. 12		374
Confectioners.....	1, 597. 00		409. 00	142
Dealers in secondhand personal property.....	10, 700. 13		740. 03	289
Dealers in markets.....	2, 487. 69	116. 38		518

Receipts from licenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923—Continued.

	Amount.	Increase.	Decrease.	Number.
Dealers in gasoline and kerosene.....	\$2,620.83		\$3.84	1,387
Drivers of public vehicles.....	2,303.00	\$48.00		2,303
Employment agencies.....	750.00	16.65		36
Entertainments.....	2,550.00		596.00	197
Fuel hucksters.....	502.96		253.02	126
Florists.....	656.25	103.75		52
Hotels.....	6,259.17	244.75		50
Investment companies.....	150.00	50.00		2
Livery stables.....	457.00	87.83		10
Laundries.....	2,481.70	253.35		202
Peddlers.....	1,750.20	483.54		160
Peddlers, Shrine convention.....	70.00	70.00		7
Public halls.....	7,983.37		341.66	83
Public parks.....	150.01		100.01	4
Public passenger vehicles.....	11,263.75	900.50		1,663
Produce dealers.....	10,597.00		974.00	1,062
Restaurants.....	21,823.50	276.00		1,288
Real estate.....	20,017.02	1,812.78		68
Slot machines.....	244.00		56.00	5
Theaters.....	700.00			1
Transfer fees.....	228.00	39.00		450
Undertaking establishments.....	1,772.92	18.75		72

	Number.	Amount.
Tags:		
Automobile—		
District of Columbia owners, at \$3.....	45,017	\$135,141.00
District of Columbia owners, at \$5.....	20,105	100,525.00
District of Columbia owners, at \$10.....	4,384	43,840.00
Nonresident owners, at \$3.....	17,131	51,393.00
Nonresident owners, at \$5.....	7,396	36,980.00
Nonresident owners, at \$10.....	2,040	20,400.00
Motor cycles—		
District of Columbia owners, at \$2.....	2,145	4,290.00
Nonresident owners, at \$2.....	365	730.00
Dealers—		
District of Columbia, at \$6.....	1,088	6,528.00
Nonresidents, at \$6.....	314	1,884.00
Commercial vehicles—		
District of Columbia.....	6,141	
Nonresident.....	2,243	
Motive power—		
Gasoline.....	99,548	
Electric.....	457	
Steam.....	10	
Free—		
District of Columbia.....	1,310	
Nonresident.....	213	
Total paid tags.....	100,015	401,711.00
Fees from duplicate tags.....		1,864.00
Permits:		
District of Columbia, at \$2.....	13,587	27,174.00
Nonresident, at \$2.....	6,011	12,022.00
Duplicates, at \$0.50.....	5,883	2,941.50
Free:		
District of Columbia.....	136	
Nonresident.....	14	
Total paid permits.....	25,481	42,137.50
Receipts from automobile tags:		
1922-23.....		401,711.00
1921-22.....		315,015.00
Total increase.....		86,696.00
Receipts from operators' permits:		
1922-23.....		42,137.50
1921-22.....		34,652.50
Total increase.....		7,485.00

PURCHASING OFFICE.

Through this office are purchased all supplies, stores, materials, and equipment required by the various divisions of the government of the District of Columbia.

The total expended during the year amounted to \$3,078,792.71, embracing supplies and materials of every conceivable nature, which may be classified generally as follows:

Agriculture supplies-----	\$5,840.44
Automobile supplies-----	17,690.11
Books, school, blank, reference, and binding and binding materials-----	87,930.48
Construction materials used in road, street, and sewer work-----	675,780.29
Drugs, chemicals, hospitals, biological and hospital supplies-----	33,493.64
Dry goods, boots, and shoes-----	64,870.28
Electrical supplies, including cable and alarm boxes-----	47,771.99
Fire-fighting apparatus and supplies-----	65,382.89
Flags, batons, revolvers, and insignias-----	7,994.27
Food supplies:	
Eggs and milk-----	18,538.47
Groceries, poultry, meat, and fish-----	167,216.48
Vegetables and fruit-----	8,194.32
Forage and horseshoeing-----	147,449.95
Fuel-----	501,140.90
Furniture, house furnishing, and office equipment-----	153,497.77
Hardware, plumbing supplies, paints, oils, and lumber-----	344,523.65
Heating apparatus, furnaces, ranges, stoves, radiators, etc-----	38,714.05
Horses and mules-----	2,050.00
Ice-----	10,065.04
Laundry equipment and laundry-----	6,414.71
Lighting service, gas and electric, buildings only-----	94,023.51
Machinery, engines, boilers, pumps, tanks, and repairs thereto-----	105,551.85
Pianos and tuning thereof-----	5,740.55
Playground, athletic, and kindergarten supplies-----	30,294.63
Postage-----	17,820.00
Printing and engraving-----	65,455.13
Repairs, miscellaneous, including minor to buildings-----	9,038.41
Saddlery-----	7,881.85
Stationery-----	86,108.91
Tags, motor vehicles, dog, wagon, and badges-----	15,476.00
Telegraph and telephone service-----	27,884.99
Transportation, cars, freight; express and freight-----	49,320.39
Typewriter and repairs thereto-----	17,918.66
Vehicles, motor and horse, and repairs thereto-----	87,632.10
Miscellaneous-----	54,077.00
Total-----	3,078,792.71

Inventory at close of business, June 30, 1923, disclosed the District at that time had stock of construction materials in the various property yards to the value of \$160,122.37.

CADETS AT THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

The District of Columbia is entitled, under Chapter XXII of section 1 of "An act making appropriations for the support of the Army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919," approved July 9, 1918, and other laws, to four cadetships in the United States Military Academy. The cadets at present are: Charles Edward Hart and Philip Robison Garges for the term ending in June, 1924; Robert Serrell Wood Walker for the term ending June, 1926; and William Hamilton Hunter for the term ending June, 1927.

MIDSHIPMEN AT THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY.

Under a provision in the act of Congress entitled "An act making appropriations for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, and for other purposes." approved July 11, 1919, five midshipmen from the District of Columbia are in the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. These midshipmen are: Robert Westland Clark and Samuel Edwin Latimer for terms to be completed in June, 1924; Joseph William Ludewig for the term to be completed in June, 1925; and Joseph Lenoir Bird and William Klein Busck for the terms to be completed in June, 1926. In the appropriation for the naval service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1924, the number of midshipmen to be appointed from the District of Columbia was reduced from five to two.

CORPORATION COUNSEL.

The Supreme Court of the United States decided one case in which the District was a party, the decision being adverse to the District.

This office also represented the minimum wage board before the Supreme Court of the United States in two cases in which the court held the minimum wage act to be unconstitutional. The office also represented the Public Utilities Commission in the matter of the valuation of the Potomac Electric Power Co., in which case the court held that it was without jurisdiction.

In the Court of Appeals 12 cases in which the District was a party were decided. Five decisions were in favor of the District and seven were adverse. Three cases are now pending.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia in actions at law 67 new suits were instituted in which the District was a party. Of the cases tried during the fiscal year 9 resulted in favor of the District, 2 being appealed; 11 were entered adversely after trial, in 2 of which appeal has been noted; 4 were settled and consent judgments entered against the District; and 4 were dismissed by plaintiffs.

Thirteen new equity suits in which the District was a party were filed in the Supreme Court of the District. Four cases were decided in favor of the District, of which 2 were appealed, and 1 case was decided adversely and appeal noted.

In the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, holding a district court, 49 condemnation cases were pending at the beginning of the fiscal year and 23 new cases have been filed during the year. Of this number 30 verdicts of condemnation were finally ratified and confirmed; 9 were discontinued; 2 cases failed through inability of the jury to find benefits equal to the damages; and 31 cases are now pending on the docket of the court. Petitions have not been filed in 2 cases in which the commissioners have ordered condemnation proceedings to be instituted.

Three habeas corpus cases were filed against the District, and the petitions in all three cases were dismissed.

Fourteen replevin suits were filed in the municipal court and the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia against officials of the

Metropolitan police department and in 12 of these cases the claimants were allowed to recover upon satisfying the court of their ownership of the goods. Two of the cases are still pending.

In the municipal court, exclusive of actions in replevin, 2 suits were pending and 37 new suits were filed in which the District was a party. Of this number 16 were decided in favor of the District, 2 adversely by consent, 4 were dismissed by plaintiffs, and 17 are now pending.

Lunacy proceedings were instituted in the cases of 705 persons. Of this number, in inquiries before a judge and jury, 576 were found to be of unsound mind and committed to the Government Hospital for the Insane, 24 of sound mind and discharged, 11 died, and 71 were discharged before trial; and 23 petitions were dismissed on motion of the assistant representing this office.

In the juvenile court 1,903 cases were filed, which, with pending cases, involved 3,778 court hearings.

Informations to the number of 48,873 were filed against offenders in the police court, and fines aggregating \$352,344.14 were collected. This represents an increase over the preceding year of 3,641 cases and \$80,764.49 in fines and forfeitures.

The general work of the office consisted of the approval of 125 bonds, 306 contracts, 19 leases, 148 tax deeds, 6 right-of-way deeds, and 27 special agreements. Two hundred and seven formal opinions were rendered. Claims for damages against the District, number 59, were investigated, and 268 reports of accidents from various departments of the District government were investigated and the reports of the investigations filed for future reference. A great many other opinions were given orally to the heads of departments and officials, and a large number of consultations had, of which no record is kept.

Three hundred and thirteen claims for damages to lamp posts were referred to this office for collection and the sum of \$2,779.37 was collected on this account.

The inspector of claims of this office conducts the business of the District of Columbia branch of the Employees' Compensation Commission. One hundred and eighty employees were injured and given medical treatment. Of this number 106 also received compensation in the total amount of \$5,605.70. In addition, a total of \$4,040.45 was expended for widows, minor children, and doctors' and hospital bills.

A representative from this office presided at all of the hearings before the police and firemen's retiring and relief board and also at the trial board hearings of the police department. A representative participated as counselor at all hearings of the fire department trial board.

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE.

A total of 363 companies and associations were licensed to write insurance in the District of Columbia during the calendar year 1921.

The total premiums paid in the District of Columbia for the year 1922 amounted to \$16,876,926.22 and the total losses paid amounted to \$5,526,305.24. They have been divided as follows:

	Premiums received.	Losses paid.
Life.....	\$12,321,013.56	\$3,561,232.75
Fire and marine; also reciprocals.....	2,883,785.34	1,318,132.39
Miscellaneous.....	1,672,097.32	616,940.10
Total.....	16,876,926.22	5,526,305.24

These total premiums, as compared with the year 1921, show an increase of \$1,719,691.28, and the total losses paid show an increase of \$627,646.68.

The annual report last year carried a schedule showing the fire insurance premiums received and the losses paid from the establishment of the department.

Believing this information to be of particular interest, it has been brought to date, and the percentage shown on the schedule of losses paid to premiums received for the period of 1902 to 1922, inclusive.

	Premiums received.	Losses paid.	Per-centage.
1902.....	\$691,568.49	\$107,198.99	15½
1903.....	755,906.30	146,195.20	19½
1904.....	792,405.16	232,659.03	29½
1905.....	808,452.20	139,080.40	17½
1906.....	788,186.74	142,379.20	19
1907.....	726,670.72	202,813.00	28
1908.....	695,788.73	211,637.98	30½
1909.....	657,642.53	203,121.89	31
1910.....	672,271.93	254,667.27	38
1911.....	650,615.07	437,874.54	67½
1912.....	636,542.50	388,169.31	61
1913.....	698,512.07	291,039.24	41½
1914.....	675,479.39	549,657.01	81½
1915.....	798,620.32	252,708.53	31
1916.....	871,944.81	348,684.45	39
1917.....	988,277.03	159,902.44	15½
1918.....	1,208,030.03	231,140.60	19½
1919.....	1,553,605.85	561,784.62	36½
1920.....	1,860,474.07	424,310.19	22½
1921.....	1,645,984.74	589,198.18	35½
1922.....	1,996,996.79	1,099,187.28	55
Grand total.....	20,173,005.67	6,964,399.35	34½

In commenting upon the fire-loss ratio for the District of Columbia it is shown that the 55 per cent loss, ratio to premiums, shown in the above schedule for the year 1922, is 20 per cent higher than for the previous year.

The schedule above shows the 21-year ratio of the District of Columbia to be 34½ per cent, or 2½ per cent more than the average for the 20-year ratio.

LICENSE FEES AND TAXES COLLECTED IN 1922.

There was collected during 1922 for license fees and miscellaneous revenues \$35,974.72 and for taxes \$192,309.22, making a total of \$228,283.94, as follows:

Source:

Companies and associations-----	\$10,254.19
Principal agents-----	12,858.35
Solicitors-----	10,384.23
Brokers-----	2,091.70
Assignments-----	112.50
Miscellaneous revenue-----	273.75
Total-----	35,974.72
For taxes collected in 1922-----	192,309.22
Grand total-----	228,283.94

The above shows an increase in revenue of \$18,757.38, as compared with the collections for 1921, which were \$209,526.56.

PREMIUMS AND LOSSES PAID AND INSURANCE WRITTEN IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN 1922.

There was paid in premiums in the District of Columbia for insurance of all kinds during 1922, \$16,876,926.22; losses paid in the District of Columbia by all companies and associations amounted to \$5,526,305.24; the amount of insurance written during the year, exclusive of casualty, \$2,776,912,752.37.

TOTAL ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND SURPLUS.

The assets of all insurance companies and associations transacting business in the District of Columbia on December 31, 1922, amounted to \$10,128,203,138.53; liabilities, \$8,325,881,201.96; surplus, including capital, \$1,802,321,936.57.

There was an increase of 17 in number of licenses issued during the year over the year 1921.

In the year 1915 there were licensed in the District of Columbia 254 insurance companies and associations; in the year 1922 there were licensed in the District of Columbia 363, an increase of 109 companies and associations within the last 7 years.

In the last report attention was called to the defects in the present insurance code of the District of Columbia and it was pointed out wherein it was out of harmony with the marine law passed in March, 1922. Since that report was submitted the insurance department prepared, with the assistance of the best insurance experts, both from the companies as well as field men and also the advice of American legal experts, a code of law for insurance covering all classes of insurance for the District of Columbia, excepting fraternal insurance. This was submitted to Congress on the 18th day of December and was recommended for passage by the committee of the House and favorably reported by the Senate committee, in January, 1923. The bill had the indorsement of the insurance commissioners of the United States generally, as well as the leading members of the American Bar Association. After the adjournment of Congress, the department went over the bill very carefully, and the bill will be reintroduced at the coming session of Congress in better shape.

It is the opinion of the superintendent of insurance that the results obtained under the bill will be beneficial to the District of Columbia in many ways, and that it will not only provide for strong regulations

and supervision over all matters of insurance but at the same time will provide ways and means for the development and growth of the local companies now operating in the District under charters furnished under various acts of Congress.

Since the last report of the superintendent, the department has somewhat changed the method of licensing agents doing business in the District of Columbia. The plan adopted in the form of a questionnaire was formerly approved in detail at the December, 1922, meeting of the insurance commissioners and methods like those being used in the District are being rapidly adopted in all of the States of the Union. The results that have been obtained have been very gratifying. Under this system the insurance department has refused to grant some forty-odd licenses, and several have suspended business in the District of Columbia which have heretofore operated.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The administration and enforcement of the act of Congress of 1921, relating to weights and measures and methods employed in making sales of numerous commodities by persons engaged in business in the District of Columbia, is lodged in the department of weights, measures, and markets. This law is one of the most far-reaching on the subject in operation anywhere in the United States. In addition to providing for the usual periodic examinations and tests of weighing and measuring equipment of every type used for commercial purposes, it contains many wholesome regulatory provisions relating to practically every kind of business. The nature of the law is such that much time and work is necessarily devoted to ascertaining the methods employed by merchants in making retail sales to consumers and in bringing about correction of such abuses as are found to exist. It is necessary in many instances to instruct dealers in regard to practical means of conforming to the provisions of the law, and this feature of the work has been diligently carried out. Effort has been made to foster observance of the law without resorting to harsh methods wherever possible, but prosecutions have been instituted whenever it was felt that the public interest demanded it. During the year 145 cases were filed in court, resulting in fines and forfeitures of \$1,455 in 143 cases. Defendants were acquitted in only 2 cases. This is the largest number of prosecutions ever instituted by the department in any one year, but not many of them were for offenses of very serious character.

Special attention has been given to sales of commodities which may properly be termed prime necessities of life, such as ice, bread, coal, milk, gasoline, groceries, and vegetables. Supervision of sales of gasoline has been a subject of much concern in view of the large quantity of this commodity consumed in the District, and much improvement has been brought about in its distribution during the past year, so far as sales of short measure are concerned. Test purchases made at a large number of filling stations during the latter part of the year disclosed serious shortages in only a few instances, and the average shortage for the entire number of filling stations where purchases were made was less than 1 per cent. As compared with reports received from other cities, this is considered an unusually good record.

The work of the department in regard to weights and measures is of such varied character as to be impracticable of accurate demonstration by statistics. The total number of inspections of weights, measures, weighing and measuring devices of every character made during the year was 64,540, an increase of 17,681 over the preceding year and an increase of 29,664 over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1921. Several causes have contributed to this increase of work, among which are the provisions of the present law requiring sales of commodities by weight which had previously been sold by dry measure, the increase in the number of business establishments, and the general tendency of many merchants to install new and modern equipment.

Examinations and tests made include scales, 19,237; weights, 22,058; measures of length, 2,262; measures of capacity, 9,802; mechanical measures, 304; automatic measuring pumps, 1,766; drug and jewelry weights, 6,996. Reexaminations and tests after adjustments were made in 2,116 cases; 2,385 pieces of equipment were condemned and 665 found thoroughly defective were confiscated for destruction in accordance with law.

The total number of official visits by inspectors to established places of business was 9,744. Special and surprise inspections made out of the ordinary routine by special request or for special reasons numbered 1,630, and 2,068 tests were made in the office laboratory.

This does not take into account work done looking after hundreds of transient venders operating throughout the District.

The department was able to take up during the year for the first time to any considerable extent the work of weighing packages of commodities put up in local retail stores in advance of sale for the purpose of determining whether or not the weights were correctly represented. The force of inspectors was not large enough to do as much of this work as otherwise would have been done, but 3,772 such packages were weighed in various stores. In some instances where slight inaccuracies were found correction of weights were required and merchants instructed in regard to the best methods to use in order to avoid such mistakes in the future. In aggravated cases prosecutions were instituted on charges of exposure of short-weight packages for sale.

The department has worked in harmonious cooperation with certain bureaus of the Federal Government, notably the Bureau of Chemistry and the Bureau of Standards. Certain provisions of the District weights and measures law are identical with or similar to Federal statutes on the same subjects, and it has been found very beneficial to work in cooperation with these departments.

DISTRICT MARKETS.

The markets owned by the District in which space is rented to various persons are the farmers' produce market situated on the reservation bounded by Tenth and Twelfth, B and Little B Streets NW., the fish wharf and market at Eleventh and Water Streets SW., the eastern market at Seventh and C Streets SE., and the western market at Twenty-first and K Streets NW.

The farmers' produce market is used by a large number of farmers and truckers and is of wonderful benefit to them as well as to resi-

dents of the District. A nominal charge of 20 cents per day, as authorized by law, is made for each space at this market. The shelters were repainted during the year, and except for certain minor repairs which are needed the market is in good condition. During the past fiscal year 55,302 vehicle loads of farm produce were sold at this market.

The eastern market is reasonably well equipped and well adapted for market purposes. It serves a very large population in southeast and northeast Washington.

The western market is a very old building and lacks modern features and equipment. Some of the stalls are badly in need of remodeling.

The markets have shown a reasonable profit over and above operating expenses.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have no administrative jurisdiction over this board, and further than that the board is required to subject its expenditures to their accounting and to annually transmit an estimate in detail of the amount of money the schools require for the ensuing year, which the commissioners must transmit in their annual estimates, with such recommendations as they deem proper. (34 Stat., pt. 1, 316.)

The board of education is composed of nine members who shall have been for five years immediately preceding their appointment bona fide residents of the District of Columbia, and three of them shall be women. They are appointed by the judges of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia.

The commissioners are indebted to the courtesy of the board of education for the following synopsis of public-school conditions in the District of Columbia during the fiscal year embraced in this report:

DAY SCHOOLS.

The total enrollment of pupils in the public schools of the District of Columbia for the school year ending June 30, 1922, was:

	Male.	Female.	Total.
White	24,958	24,456	49,054
Colored	10,403	12,046	22,449
Total	35,361	36,502	71,503

The above total enrollment for the school year was distributed as follows:

	Male.	Female.	White.	Colored.
Elementary (Grades VIII-I, kindergarten, and ungraded classes)	29,479	29,551	39,995	19,035
Secondary	5,454	6,318	8,837	2,935
Normal	11	481	222	270
Vocational	57	152	.....	209
Total	35,001	36,502	49,054	22,449

The total enrollment shows an increase of 1,962, or 2.74 per cent, over that of the previous year.

The number of weeks in the school year was 36, or 180 school days.

The day schools were in session 176 days.

Teachers, principals, directors, etc.

	White.			Colored.			Total.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Elementary:									
Kindergarten.....		113	113		71	71		184	184
Grades VIII-I.....	5	919	924	38	390	428	43	1,309	1,352
Ungraded.....		33	33	2	14	16	2	47	49
Miscellaneous.....	6	29	35	4	6	10	10	35	45
Secondary (Grades XII-IX):	108	264	372	63	61	124	171	325	496
Normal (Grades XIV-XIII):		16	16	6	8	14	6	24	30
Vocational.....	8	3	11	12	14	26	20	17	37
Special.....	27	116	143	14	54	68	41	170	211
Total.....	154	1,493	1,647	139	618	757	293	2,111	2,401

Principals and assistants, and directors and assistants who devote one-half or more than one-half of their time to supervision: White—male, 15; female, 36; colored—male, 9; female, 17; total, 77.

Number of librarians: White, 7; colored, 3; total, 10.

Number of clerks: White, 26; colored, 9; total, 35.

Janitorial service.

	White.	Colored.	Total.
Caretakers.....	14	26	40
Charwomen.....	2	3	5
Coal passers.....	2	4	6
Electricians.....	3		3
Engineers.....	4	3	7
Engineer assistants.....	5	2	7
Firemen.....	2	9	11
Gardeners.....	2		2
Janitors and assistants.....	94	65	159
Laborers (common and skilled).....	8	111	119
Matrons.....	8	4	12
Watchmen (night).....	3	2	5
Total.....	147	229	376

Night schools.

	White.	Colored.	Total.
Whole number of pupils enrolled.....	7,574	2,542	10,116
Average enrolled.....	3,128.5	2,012	5,140.5
Average attendance.....	2,461.8	1,799.3	4,261.1
Per cent of attendance.....	78.7	89.3	83.3
Number of teachers:			
Male.....	52	25	77
Female.....	81	36	117
Total.....	133	61	194

SUMMER OR VACATION SCHOOLS.

(July and August, 1922.)

There were 5,304 pupils enrolled in the summer or vacation elementary and high schools—white, 3,528; colored, 1,776.

	White.	Colored.	Total.
Elementary.....	2,256	915	3,171
High.....	1,272	861	2,133
Total.....	3,528	1,776	5,304

The number of teaching centers was—white, 17; colored, 8. Of these centers two were of high-school grade—white, 1; colored, 1.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Other enrollments for the summer or vacation were as follows.

	White.	Colored.	Total.
Gardening.....	560	191	751
School playgrounds.....	1,736	851	2,587
Americanization:			
Day.....	342		342
Night.....	257		257
Total.....	2,895	1,042	3,937

SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

The number of school buildings used was as follows:

	White.	Colored.	Total.
PERMANENT.			
Elementary:			
Kindergartens.....	90	43	133
Grades VIII-I.....			
Special.....		2	4
Miscellaneous.....	5		5
Junior high schools.....	13	1	4
Senior high schools.....	5	2	7
Normal schools.....	1	1	2
Total.....	106	51	157

¹Includes Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools, not yet occupied.

Total number of portable schools.....	78
Total number of rented buildings.....	14

PLAYGROUNDS.

New playgrounds have this year replaced the old. The old playgrounds, in the shape of locked-up school yards, vacant lots, back yards, and alleys with their weeds and rubbish, have become new playgrounds with supervision for the children of Washington through the municipal playground department under the super-

vision and direction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

During the past year through appropriations 22 playgrounds were opened during the summer, with 10 of the larger yards kept open daily after school during the fall term, and, moreover, there is increased appropriation available July 1, 1923, for summer playgrounds.

The past year the number of visits to the playgrounds have totaled 2,994,686. The increase was marked, and very largely due to increased facilities.

During the summer there was an average daily attendance of 20,000 children, the grounds were open from 9 a. m. until 8 p. m., or dark; on Saturdays from 9 a. m. until 4.30 p. m. Through the spring and fall the daily attendance was 15,000, with playgrounds open from 11.45 until dark; the school grounds were open daily during the fall term from 3 to 6 p. m.

The healthful opportunities offered can hardly be measured. The children may be counted and the number of games statistically compiled, but the effect of recreation centers on character, though known to be considerable, may not be measured with mathematical accuracy. In the matter of health this outdoor life and exercise speaks for itself.

Instruction is given in many kinds of handwork, and thus the playground becomes a specialized school without the expense and without its restrictions. Some of the latest playgrounds purchased were adjacent to school yards and were selected with the view of reaching the largest number of children. All of the playgrounds are supervised by a director, and the larger ones have at times two or three play leaders. The playground equipment is not overabundant, but the apparatus has been selected with care and is of up-to-date type; this equipment includes sand boxes, swings, seesaws, slides, tether poles, giant strides, gymnasium frames, tennis, volley and basket ball courts.

Three of the playgrounds have swimming pools, and five have wading pools. Wading pools add to the joy and well-being of the children, and swimming pools have done much for those who wish an opportunity to learn to swim, and those who are already adepts at the art have shown their appreciation by the large numbers that flock to the pools. There are regular swimming classes every day at each pool; a life guard and a swimming teacher are always on duty.

In the occupational play the children are taught the things that most interest them—needlework, embroidery, crochet, tatting, knitting, machine sewing, jig sawing, art dyeing, flower making, paper cutting, and the making of small garments, basketry of various sorts of simple and intricate designs of reed, raffia and splints, chair caning and rug weaving. While they are gaining in health and happiness in their outdoor activity, the director is, almost unconsciously to the child, instilling the principles of industry, honesty, and self-control, and while spending their time happily they are also gaining the elements of good citizenship.

The children are taught to be the first aids to the health department and to the fire department. There has also been held on each playground a "Safety first week," when the children are especially

taught the safest way to cross a street and how to help others across. In the playground "Clean-up week" efforts is made to instill in each child an "antilitter" spirit to help all through the other 51 weeks of the year. The "Be kind to animals week" has given the children a chance to not only show their pets but to tell about them and the care that they require. A party is given on each playground, when every child wishing to do so may bring his own pets, among which are parrots, guinea pigs, goats, monkeys, alligators, lizards, dogs, cats, turtles, and rabbits. In fact, birds, animals, and fishes abound on the playgrounds, bringing much joy for this one week. During this time the children have talks on kindness to animals, and stories are dramatized to impress the meaning of it all on their minds. A book is kept on each ground in which is listed the name and address of each child who has a pet of his own with whatever description the child cares to give. Prizes have been offered for the best animal stories written on each ground. "Tree-planting week" was observed on the playgrounds. Trees are registered by the American Forestry Association, having been planted with great ceremony on Arbor day.

The athletics of the public elementary schools of the District of Columbia are played off on the municipal playgrounds, where teams representing the schools in basket ball, baseball, and soccer for boys and basket ball, schlag ball, and tennis for girls, play for the division and city championships. The attendance is not obligatory, but is fostered and encouraged by many school principals. Besides being good exercise and fine sport, the athletic games promote school spirit and loyalty. These contests are carefully supervised by the playground director: all bats, balls, mitts, masks, and athletic goods are furnished by the municipal playground department; high standards of sportsmanship are maintained.

Track and field events were held on each ground, ending in a general track meet given at the central stadium. The marble tournaments on each ground were of great interest.

Under the direction of Mr. F. J. Brunner, superintendent of the municipal bathing beach, thousands of small girls and boys attended the elementary instruction classes. About two-thirds learned to take care of themselves in deep water. In addition to elementary instruction, there were classes in life-saving and fancy diving which were taken advantage of by the swimmers of the city, both men and women.

REPORT OF THE REPAIR AND CONSTRUCTION DIVISION.

It is the function of this division to keep the playgrounds in proper condition, to distribute supplies and equipment to playgrounds, to inspect all apparatus and pass upon its safety, to manufacture small playground apparatus, and to provide for the housing and safe-keeping of all playground stores and supplies.

During the fiscal year of 1923 the equipment on all grounds has been kept in repair and apparatus constructed, such as swings, slides, ladders, frames for baby swings, kindergarten tables, benches, balance beams, bicycle racks, incline boards, seesaw boards, baby hammock frames, box-swing chairs, park benches, and a variety of similar articles. Baseball diamonds, soccer fields, tennis courts, and

basket ball courts were laid out and new pieces of apparatus installed.

The playground storehouse, which is the headquarters of the repair and construction division, is situated at 1062 Wisconsin Avenue NW. This building contains a carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, small machine shop, paint shop, tool room, storage room, and office.

Supplies are purchased in bulk and delivered to the storehouse. They are distributed weekly to the various playgrounds.

THE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The contribution of the free Public Library during the past year to the civic welfare of Washington is recorded in the report of the board of library trustees (with which is included the report of the librarian to the trustees).

The report states that 21,223 volumes were added to the collection by purchase and gift, making the book collection number nearly 250,000 volumes. The books added have been carefully selected, the purchases including only those of most value to the library's users. The registered users of the library number more than 60,000, to whom 1,044,213 volumes were lent for home and office use. In addition to the books circulated, more than 89,000 mounted pictures were lent to assist teachers in school work, women's study clubs, or business and newspaper men in some phase of the day's work. Material to answer more than 8,600 questions was put at the disposal of inquirers at the reference desk of the main library; similar assistance was rendered also at the information and advisory desks located in various divisions of the central library and branches. The industrial division, where books, magazines, and pamphlets bearing on industrial, technical, and business subjects are collected and made available by assistants familiar with the contents of the collection, had increased use by students and business men and Government departments. To serve the children of Washington the library operates three children's rooms and lends collections of books to any teacher of the graded schools who may request them. Through these means over half a million volumes were lent to children for home use.

The trustees report that the new southeastern branch library, opened in December, had abundantly justified itself in the seven months of its operation by lending more than 86,000 volumes to readers in the southeastern section. They believe that with a larger book stock and increased registration as the library wins its way with the 40,000 persons it is designed to serve, it may look forward to an annual circulation of 150,000 to 250,000, or even more.

The opening of this branch was a big step forward and is significant as marking a new beginning of the movement that will ultimately include the maintenance of a series of branches to furnish library service to the entire population of the District. Another step toward this goal was the purchase of a site for a branch library in the Mount Pleasant section through an appropriation secured from Congress of \$25,000. Since the population to be served by this branch is increasing at such a rapid rate, the original allotment of \$100,000 by the Carnegie Corporation of New York for the building is considered inadequate. The trustees anticipate that the liberality and broadmindedness of the corporation will lead it to honor

the request for additional funds so that a building adequate in size and worthy of the environment on upper Sixteenth Street, in the midst of other handsome public buildings, may be erected.

A subcommittee of the District of Columbia Committees of the Senate and House reporting (67th Cong., 4th sess., S. Doc. 315) on the "reorganization of the schools of the District of Columbia" went on record as approving the establishment of these branches in separate buildings (five in addition to the two now in operation) and stated that "Congress should make the appropriations for the purchase of the necessary sites." A consistent development of the branch-library system is highly important, especially by appropriations for suitable sites, so that the community may not lose by delay the additional needed branch buildings which the trustees have reason to hope the Carnegie Corporation will supply if applications are promptly made and the reasonable conditions of the gifts fulfilled.

Another unit in the branch system is promised in the setting aside in the plans of the new Tenley school building of a room for public library use. In spite of the temporary setback through not securing any appropriations for equipping and operating the branch libraries in the Eastern High School and the Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools, the prospect for establishing and operating the series of branch libraries in the public schools seems good. The plan is so reasonable and economical that there should be no delay in carrying it out.

The trustees emphasize the fact that if the library is to fulfill the complete educational function to the community a well-conducted and highly trained staff is required, and that this can not be secured without proper compensation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

A Metropolitan police district, comprising the entire District of Columbia and governed by a board of police, was created in 1861. On the 1st day of July, 1878, all the powers and duties which had been exercised prior thereto by the board of police were transferred to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, who were authorized to make all necessary rules and regulations relating thereto. The commissioners were further vested with all the powers conferred by law upon the mayors of Washington and Georgetown with respect to ordering military assistance in aid of the civil authorities to quell riots, suppress insurrections, protect property, and preserve public tranquillity.

The Metropolitan police force as originally constituted comprised 1 superintendent, 10 sergeants, 20 roundsmen, 150 privates.

The police force of June 30, 1923, was made up of 1 major and superintendent, 2 assistant superintendents, 3 inspectors, 13 captains, 21 lieutenants, 56 sergeants, 35 detective sergeants, and 799 patrolmen.

It is not believed that the general public, as a rule, is aware of the unremitting attention and frequent overwork demanded of the limited police force provided for the protection of lives and property in the District of Columbia. While regular hours are designated for them to come and to go off duty, they are always on duty and must

be ready to respond to any and all demands made upon them. The insufficiency of the police in numerical strength has been commented upon annually with a view of impressing upon Congress the difficulties encountered in giving to the different sections of the District of Columbia that security which the Government guarantees to persons and property. There have been increases in the force from time to time, but in no way commensurate with growing needs, and at no time in the history of the District of Columbia have the requirements of a full quota of police guardians been more urgently felt than at the present.

At the beginning of the fiscal year 3 vacancies existed in the force; the force was increased by 25, and 143 vacancies occurred during the succeeding 12 months; 143 appointments were made, leaving 25 vacancies in the numerical strength of the force on June 30, 1923. All appointments to the force have been made in conformity with the civil-service law after the applicants have passed a satisfactory physical examination before the board of surgeons assigned to this work by the United States Civil Service Commission and in mental tests before the said commission, and also after their previous history and antecedents were fully investigated by a lieutenant of police assigned to assist the commission in this duty.

TWO SUPERVISORY DISTRICTS.

During the year the city was divided into two supervisory districts, known as supervising inspection districts Nos. 1 and 2, and an assistant superintendent placed in charge of each. It is found, of course, that this method not only makes for a more frequent and closer supervision of the force but also that a marked improvement has been brought about in the appearance of the men in general.

CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS.

It is not fair or proper to consider Washington as identical with the District of Columbia, yet thousands of intelligent people throughout the country are uninformed as to the distinction, as to the form of local government, and as to the social conditions.

The population of the District of Columbia, according to the police census of November 3, 1919, was 455,448. According to the census of the Bureau of the Census it was 454,026. During the fiscal year just ended the total arrests numbered 66,758, but of this number 96 per cent of the cases made were for petty violations of the law and the police and other regulations which were promulgated by the local government.

The total number of cases where misdemeanor was charged aggregate 63,878, of which number 37,613 were white and 26,265 colored. Of the total number 1,520 cases were nolle prossed, 5,661 cases dismissed, and 56,709 cases handled by the courts, as against 51,474 for the preceding year.

There were 2,880 cases of arrest for criminal offenses, and of this number 2,341 were held upon hearing in court, the remainder either being disposed of by refusal to prosecute or by failing to maintain the charge.

LIQUOR LAW ENFORCEMENT.

The police have been very active in enforcing the laws relating to violations of the national prohibition law as well as offenses against the Sheppard law, the record showing that 1,492 cases were made for illegal possession, 42 for manufacturing, 1,380 for selling, 967 for transporting, 2 druggists filling illegal prescriptions, 1 for soliciting orders for intoxicating liquors, 2 for maintaining a common and public nuisance, 20 under the charge of possession of property designed for the manufacture of liquor, and 28 for other laws governing the manufacture and sale of malt liquors.

Under the Sheppard law arrests were made in 234 cases where persons were charged with drinking in public places, 8,368 of persons drunk in public places, and 504 where the charge was operating a vehicle while drunk.

VICE REPRESSION.

The members of the police department have been very energetic in the enforcement of the laws relating to gambling, immoral practices, violations of the liquor laws, and the laws affecting moral turpitude, the total number of arrests being 5,773 as against 4,328 for the preceding year.

ESTIMATED VALUE OF LOSSES AND RECOVERIES.

Property to the value of \$669,637.87 was reported stolen during the year and property to the value of \$83,214.35 reported as lost and missing.

Automobiles to the value of \$189,797, horses and wagons to the value of \$10,340, and miscellaneous articles to the value of \$11,636.96 were returned to their owners, making the total value of property recovered by the department during the year \$882,374.43.

In addition to the estimated value of money and valuables which came into the possession of the police, the police delivered to the poundmaster property to the value of \$75; taken from prisoners and returned property to the value of \$900,662.60; collateral delivered to clerk at the police court, \$396,465; collateral delivered to the clerk at juvenile court, \$2,174; collected in nonsupport cases and delivered to the clerk at juvenile court, \$10,045; delivered to the Internal Revenue Bureau in the enforcement of the prohibition laws, \$141,715; delivered to the United States marshal, \$1,049; making a grand total of estimated money and valuables passing through the hands of the department \$2,334,560.

DETECTIVE BUREAU.

The record of the detective bureau for the past year has compared favorably with that of other large cities of the country, and while there has never been any question as to its ability to deal with local criminals, the experience during the year has shown that the bureau has had great success in handling cases where depredations have been committed by professional thieves and housebreakers who came from other sections of the country.

During the year just closed arrests were made in 2,527 cases, of which convictions resulted in 1,673 cases, 196 cases were nolleprossed, 479 cases were dismissed, and 179 cases were pending at the close of the year. Property to the value of \$275,295.23 was recovered by the various members of this bureau.

TRAFFIC BUREAU.

The department was fortunate during the year in securing for the offices of this bureau the third floor of the Graham Building, located at the southwest corner of Fourteenth and E Streets NW., which, while it does not fill the need of this bureau, is such an improvement over the cramped quarters heretofore assigned to it in the hallway of the fifth floor of the District Building as to permit of the many and diversified duties being performed in a more efficient manner.

During the year 26,605 persons made application for permits to operate motor vehicles in the District of Columbia, and of this number 19,748 were approved and 6,857 were disapproved. There were also 2,156 nonresidents or tourists registered at the traffic bureau, and in each case the owner was furnished with a certificate of registration entitling him to operate in the District of Columbia for the length of time granted by his home State.

During the year 65 persons were killed and 73 received serious injuries. The major and superintendent of police has spared no pains in impressing upon the members of the force the necessity for strict enforcement of the traffic regulations, particularly those regulations the violation of which are the most productive of accident and injury.

Upon recommendation made by the police department the commissioners revoked 312 permits issued to persons to operate motor vehicles in the District of Columbia, most of such revocations being made after arrest and conviction on the charge of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated.

PHARMACY INSPECTION.

The laws relating to the practice of pharmacy, medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and the Harrison narcotic law have received close attention by the members of the police force during the past year, and the department has been generally successful in keeping the violators of these laws within bounds. Of the arrests made, 130 cases were held for the action of the grand jury, in 3 fines were paid, the personal bond was taken in 1 case by the court, 2 were committed to jail, 9 forfeited their collateral, and in 12 instances cases were dismissed. Investigations were also made in 11 cases of suicides by poison, 96 attempted suicides by poison, 59 cases of accidental poisoning where the patients recovered, and 19 cases of accidental poisoning where the results were fatal.

WOMAN'S BUREAU—HOUSE OF DETENTION.

During the last fiscal year this branch of the police service dealt with 1,521 cases; 483 arrests were made, 407 being females and 76 males. Among those arrested were 140 women and children without

ability of any kind to earn a living; 38 trades and professions were represented; 1,800 inmates of the house of detention were interviewed upon admission by the members of this bureau; several thousand children and wayward young persons on the streets, in dance halls, motion-picture theaters, stores, etc., were warned and taken or sent to their homes, the parents and guardians being notified and proper advice given as to the conduct of their children; 1,138 persons were reported to this bureau as missing, and of this number 938 were located or returned to their homes, 200 are still carried on the books as not having been located, and 68 were persons out of town. Two thousand one hundred and forty-two persons were cared for at this institution during the year, being classified as follows:

- 431 white boys.
- 615 colored boys.
- 112 white girls under 17.
- 236 colored girls under 17.
- 110 white girls over 17 and under 21.
- 132 colored girls over 17 and under 21.
- 267 white women over 21.
- 239 colored women over 21.

In this institution there are now adequate facilities for the reception, occupation, indoor and outdoor, and education of the unfortunates who must be detained at this place of restraint, which is filling a great need in this jurisdiction.

The average daily population at this institution for the past year was 40 plus.

POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL.

The school period for the fiscal year opened its fifteenth term on November 1, 1922, and was suspended at the conclusion of the seventeenth term on February 27, 1923, for the reason that there was such a large shortage of men available for street duty owing to the inability of the department to fill existing vacancies and the large number of men on leave of absence on account of sickness, which did not justify relieving so many men from active duty for the purpose of taking the school course.

The school will again be opened in the fall and will be continued until all new members of the force are given intensive training under the plan laid down for the conduct of this school.

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE SURGEONS.

With the hearty cooperation existing between the board of surgeons and the headquarters of the police department a most satisfactory condition has resulted with respect to the work in the hands of the board.

CHILD-LABOR INSPECTORS.

In accordance with the act of Congress, two members of the police force have been detailed as child-labor inspectors and have done efficient work in giving attention to places where children are employed and also to those engaged in selling newspapers, magazines, etc., upon the street. Three hundred and twenty-nine establishments in the District of Columbia employ child labor, and the officers de-

tailed to this work have been painstaking and diligent in seeing that all provisions of the child labor law were consistently complied with.

SANITARY OFFICER.

The report of the sanitary officer shows that 488 patients were admitted to St. Elizabeths Hospital, 4 of which were readmissions, making the actual number of patients admitted 484, as against 465 for the preceding year. Three hundred and forty-eight persons were taken into custody by the police and held for mental observation, as against 338 for the preceding year.

INSPECTION OF SECONDHAND DEALERS' ESTABLISHMENTS.

At the end of the present fiscal year the records show 323 licensed dealers in secondhand personal property, an increase of 8, and the inspection of these establishments has been rigid, it only being necessary to cite 9 dealers, with aggregate charges of 14 cases, before the courts for violations of the regulations, and convictions were had in all cases.

BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION.

This bureau is continuing its valuable work in the identification of persons arrested and has proven beyond the shadow of doubt the inestimable value of the fingerprint system of identification. Continued improvements are being made with a view of having it rank second to none in any of the police departments of the country.

CHANGES IN FORCE—DISCIPLINE.

With respect to demeanor and appearance and in point of efficiency the District of Columbia police force has the reputation throughout the United States of being among the first. This statement is made with full appreciation of the department's shortcomings and deficiencies. Only 161 cases were referred to the police trial board for hearing; and of these, 41 charges were dismissed, 95 officers were fined, 33 were removed from the force, 1 was reprimanded and warned, and in 5 cases a warning was deemed sufficient. Six privates during the year died, 82 resigned, and 19 were pensioned, which, together with the original vacancies as created by act of Congress of July 21, 1922, make the total number of separations 168. One hundred and forty-three appointments were made, leaving 25 vacancies on June 30, 1923.

UNIFORMS.

During the fiscal year the practice of members of the force wearing their summer blouses buttoned up while on duty was put into effect and greatly added to their appearance while on street duty.

DANCE HALLS.

The superintendent of police recommends that the license law relative to dance halls be amended so as to provide for a license fee to be paid by all persons giving instruction in dancing, the said license to

be conspicuously posted in the building or place where such instructions are given and the police to have authority to enter such places at any time during the period of such instruction.

DEADLY AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS.

Statistics do not justify the thought that the carrying of concealed weapons has been abandoned, but, on the other hand, there has been a gradual and decided increase in the number of apprehensions under this charge, and for the welfare of the community sections 855 and 857 of the Code of Law for the District of Columbia restricting the sale of deadly weapons should be amended.

LIGHT AND DARK PLACES.

A well-lighted area, alley, or street at once affords the police officer a ready inspection of all premises contiguous thereto, and the fact remains that a general well-lighted system within the entire city limits would be of material aid to the police in maintaining order and preventing crime.

GUIDES.

It has not been infrequent that visitors have been annoyed and imposed upon by those who represent themselves as "authorized guides" or as "official guides," and who produce a badge of some kind which they have had made and purchased, and it is thought that the situation might be remedied if such guides were required to be licensed after their applications had received the favorable indorsement of the police department.

PAWNSHOPS.

There are no pawnbrokers in the District of Columbia, and those in the territory immediately contiguous thereto must depend upon District patronage, but are no longer required to make daily reports of their transactions. It is believed that the former proposed legislation on this subject would be of benefit to the community.

AUCTIONEERS.

The itinerant auctioneer has taken a place in the community; and while action has been had for alleged misrepresentation of sales, it is believed a law should be enacted so as to make punishable all fake auction sales.

ANNUAL INSPECTION.

The annual inspection of the force was had on October 22, and the results obtained demonstrated that the force has been carefully officered and trained during the year.

TARGET RANGE AND PRACTICE.

It has been a disappointment to the department that it has not been able to maintain a suitable target range for revolver practice,

and it is hoped that in the near future arrangements may be made whereby members of the force may be able to secure this necessary training and experience, which can only be had through the handling of their revolvers at target shooting.

FUGITIVE LAW.

There is need for legislation which will permit the authorities to hold for a reasonable period fugitives who may come within the jurisdiction, a law whereby a fugitive may be detained at least 10 days after information has been filed by the local authorities that an authorized official statement has been received from another jurisdiction that the person wanted has committed a crime there.

Such laws exist in other jurisdictions and would without doubt aid the police and benefit the public of this and other communities if such could be secured.

NEW STATION HOUSE.

The station house in the northeast section of the District, which is being erected at Seventeenth Street and Rhode Island Avenue, is rapidly nearing completion and will soon be placed in operation and the residents of this rapidly growing community receive that full protection to which they are entitled.

SHRINE CONVENTION.

During the latter part of the fiscal year there was held in Washington the 1923 convention of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, and the occasion attracted probably larger crowds than any with which the department has ever been called upon to cope.

The loyalty and zeal with which the regular members of the force entered upon their duties on this occasion is worthy of special mention, and the splendid success with which they handled the vast crowds in the face of long and trying hours is most gratifying.

Three master parades were held on three consecutive days and each was handled without serious accident of any nature.

POLICE MAGISTRATES.

This subject has heretofore been given consideration by this department and materially concerns the welfare of the citizen. As time advances and surroundings change, necessity for improvement in the system is more and more apparent. To remedy the existing situation it has been suggested that magistrates shall determine cases at the several precinct station houses every morning and evening. Under such circumstances the cases would be disposed of promptly and the witnesses and members of the force avoid the delay which is now necessary. During the past year members of the force, not including those attached to the detective bureau or the woman's bureau, were detained at police court awaiting hearings of cases until after 11 o'clock a. m. in 5,223 instances.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

FIRE LOSS.

According to the report of the chief engineer of the fire department, during the year 2,792 alarms of fire were received, an increase of 795 over the number received during the preceding year. These fires caused a loss estimated at \$2,074,096, an increase of \$894,293 over the loss for the fiscal year 1922. Considerably more than half of the entire fire loss was caused by four fires, as follows: The Wilkins-Rogers Co.'s flour mill, \$94,286; the People's Drug Store warehouse, \$382,894; the Army air station at Bolling Field, \$750,000; W. A. Pierce Lumber Co.'s yard, \$108,690.

FIRE PREVENTION.

In addition to the fire-prevention work performed by the fire marshal's force, the inspection of apartment houses, hotels, schools, homes for the aged, etc., was continued as in past years. Fire-prevention week, October 2 to 9, was marked with an intensive campaign to bring the subject of fire prevention before the citizens of the District of Columbia. The citizens' committee appointed by the commissioners to attend to the details of this observance can not be too highly complimented for its good work.

DISCIPLINE.

Four members of the fire department were removed from the service during the year for delinquency. Minor disciplinary cases numbered 100.

POLICEMEN AND FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND.

Twelve members of the department were retired from the service during the year and granted pensions. Four widows of deceased members were also granted relief.

On February 17, 1923, an act of Congress was approved granting increases in pension to members of the fire department retired under laws enacted prior to the present relief law and to all widows on the pension roll. Under the provisions of this law the commissioners issued an order granting increases in pension to 52 retired officers and members of the department and to 42 widows. This equalization of relief allowances was badly needed, and the commissioners are glad to have been able to administer the same.

HORSES.

On July 1, 1922, the department had on hand 65 horses. During the year 6 were purchased, 2 died, and 2 were condemned and transferred to other District departments.

DRILL SCHOOL.

The department at the present time has not the proper facilities for the training of its men in fire-fighting and rescue work.

It is the hope of the commissioners that in the near future sufficient funds will be obtained to erect a drill tower. It has been

recognized by fire department authorities throughout the United States that no longer should firemen be limited only to the education in their calling which they may acquire on the fire ground.

APPARATUS.

Much of the apparatus of the department is in bad condition at the present time. Not only is there horse-drawn apparatus which should be replaced with modern motor-driven apparatus, but many of the older motors, particularly the front-drive tractors, are in such condition as to have outlived their usefulness. It has been found necessary for the fire department to limit the speed of these pieces to 12 miles per hour, a rate entirely too slow for efficient fire service. In fact, the apparatus affected is of practically no value so far as the initial work on the fire ground is concerned.

It is hoped that sufficient funds will be obtained in the near future to replace this antiquated equipment.

HEALTH OFFICER.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the District of Columbia, as compiled by the United States Bureau of the Census for the year 1922, is 454,026, the whites numbering 341,662 and the colored 112,364.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths recorded during the calendar year 1922 was 6,305, as compared with 6,057 during the preceding year. These figures indicate an increase of 248 deaths during the year just closed. The general death rate advanced from 13.34 for each 1,000 of population in the calendar year 1921 to 13.89 in the year just closed. The white rate was 11.83 and the colored 20.13.

The principal causes of death during the year, arranged in the order of relative influence on the death rate, were organic heart disease, pneumonia, pulmonary tuberculosis, and cerebral hemorrhage.

Births.—Nine thousand one hundred and twenty-one births were recorded during the calendar year 1922, an increase of 93 over the preceding year. The general birth rate for the year 1922 was 20.10 for each 1,000 population. The number of white births was 6,523 and the colored 2,598.

For every 1,000 babies born during the year 84.5 died during the first year of life, the white rate being 63.8 and the colored 148.

Rabies.—Rabies among animals prevailed to a greater extent during the calendar year 1922 than during the preceding year, and many more persons were bitten during that period. During the year just closed 23 dogs were found by clinical and post-mortem findings to be suffering from rabies. Thirty-eight persons were bitten by dogs or cats suspected of being rabid. In 16 instances laboratory examination showed the animal was suffering from rabies at the time the biting occurred. The practice of the health department to notify promptly all persons bitten of the result of the laboratory findings

was continued during the year. In view of the continued and increased prevalence of rabies in the District of Columbia, the commissioners on July 9, 1922, renewed their order of the previous year, requiring the muzzling of all dogs running at large. The order was made applicable for three months from the date of issue.

BUREAU OF PREVENTABLE DISEASES.

During the calendar year 1922 the contagious-disease service handled 7,605 cases of measles, 1,257 cases of tuberculosis, 1,431 cases of whooping cough, 970 of chicken pox, 906 of scarlet fever, 675 of diphtheria, 428 of influenza, 133 of typhoid fever, 3 of smallpox, 2 of pellagra, 2 of leprosy, 1 of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, and 7 of infantile paralysis, making a total of 13,420 cases.

Leper hospital.—This institution was not in active operation during the year. The two cases of leprosy found in the District were cared for at the quarantine station until arrangements for their removal to the National Leprosarium, at Carville, La., were completed.

Smallpox hospital.—This institution was in active operation 46 days during the fiscal year and cared for 3 patients during that time. The total number of patient-days' service rendered was 42, and the average stay of each patient was 15.3 days.

Quarantine station.—This station was in actual operation 36 days during the fiscal year and cared for 8 inmates. The total number of inmate days was 41, and the average stay of each inmate was 5 days.

Ambulance service.—Five hundred and ninety-four persons suffering from minor contagious diseases were removed to hospitals for the treatment of contagious diseases. Patients suffering from smallpox were, as heretofore, removed to the smallpox hospital in the ambulance provided for that purpose.

Typhoid fever.—One hundred and eighty-eight cases were recorded during the calendar year. While all of these cases are charged to the District of Columbia, 32 of them were brought from adjoining States into the District for treatment in the hospitals of this city. Forty-five cases resulted from a supper given in one of the churches of the city.

Diphtheria.—During the year, with the cooperation of the authorities of various homes and orphanages in the District, what is known as the Schick test to determine the susceptibility of persons to diphtheria was applied. Six hundred and forty-three children were subjected to the test and 306 found to be susceptible to the infection of diphtheria. All of these children were immunized against the disease by the administration of antitoxin.

Disinfecting service.—One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one premises and 1,490 articles exposed to infection in some way were disinfected during the year.

Public crematorium.—Four hundred and twenty-seven bodies were cremated during the fiscal year, 29 adults, 153 infants, and 245 still-born infants. The crematory is badly in need of repairs, and an item covering the cost of such repairs is included in the annual estimates of the health department.

Bacteriological laboratory.—Eighteen thousand nine hundred and forty-three specimens of various kinds were examined during the fiscal year.

Serological laboratory.—Five thousand three hundred and seventy-seven specimens of various kinds were examined.

Chemical laboratory.—Nine thousand six hundred and thirty-two samples of various kinds were examined.

Bathing pools.—The supervision of public bathing pools has been continued throughout the year. Every effort has been made to have these pools maintained in a safe and cleanly manner for bathing purposes.

Wells and water supplies.—Samples of water from public and private wells to the number of 1,094 were examined. Water furnished by common carriers for drinking purposes has been closely supervised and the results communicated to the Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service, for his information, that official having jurisdiction over the water supply used by common carriers in interstate traffic.

Theaters.—During the fiscal year 142 samples of air were collected from various playhouses throughout the city and examined to determine the purity of the atmosphere in these places. In 74 instances the air was found to be impure, and prompt steps were taken to bring about a betterment of conditions.

Food poisoning.—A large number of pupils attending the McKinley High School were made sick as a result of a supper given by the pupils of the school on the evening of May 23, 1923. None of these affected was seriously ill and all recovered in a short time. Laboratory tests of a sample of the creamed chicken which was served at the dinner disclosed the presence of the *Bacillus enteritidis*, which was responsible for the outbreak.

Diphtheria antitoxin.—During the fiscal year the department dispensed 3,112,000 units of diphtheria antitoxin to persons suffering from diphtheria and who were financially unable to purchase the same.

Dispensaries.—Tuberculosis division: During the fiscal year 915 new cases were admitted. Two hundred and fifteen were found to be positive cases of tuberculosis. One thousand five hundred and thirty-five X-ray pictures were made. During the year the Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis donated to the health department for use in the waiting room at the dispensary 1½ dozen folding chairs.

Veneral disease division: One thousand eight hundred and twenty new patients were admitted during the year. Total number of visits made by patients was 11,898. Of the total number of patients treated 219 were under 15 years of age, 49 being under 5 years of age.

Medical and dental inspection of public schools.—During the school year 6,572 visits were made to the schools by the medical inspectors. The total number of examinations made of pupils was 28,900. Physical defects were found in 5,842 instances, and 2,734 pupils were excluded from school upon the recommendation of the inspectors. One thousand three hundred and thirty-three applicants were physically examined to determine their fitness for admission to the normal school and for teaching positions. Ninety-one pupils were mentally examined to determine the advisability of segregation in special schools. Sixty-nine per cent were recommended for transfer. Eight hundred and seventy-four applicants for child-

labor permits were examined. Forty and eight-tenths per cent of all applicants were found to have some physical defect which warranted the granting only of temporary permits pending correction of the defect.

Twelve nutrition classes were conducted in certain schools for both white and colored pupils. The total number of pupils attending these classes was 226, and the average gain in weight was 181 per cent. A nutrition class was also conducted in the white and colored tuberculosis schools, the total number of pupils attending being 48 and the average gain in weight was 143 per cent.

Dental inspection.—Eighteen thousand eight hundred and seventy-two pupils were examined by the school dental inspectors. Eighty-two per cent were found to have dental defects. Four dental clinics were, as hertofore, operated during the year, the total number of pupils treated being 3,311.

School nurses handled 7,527 pupils having certain physical defects.

Bureau of food inspection.—The food inspectors made a total of 95,219 inspections during the fiscal year. Three thousand four hundred and two food producing and vending establishments were registered at the close of fiscal year. Seventeen hundred and forty-two dairy farms were licensed at the close of the fiscal year to produce milk and cream for sale in the District of Columbia, the total number of cattle on these farms being 32,446.

Bureau of sanitary inspection.—Nine thousand two hundred and ninety-six complaints were received and acted upon. These complaints necessitated 12,735 inspections to be made. The total number of visits of all kinds made by sanitary inspectors was 84,132. In 13,448 instances violation of the law and regulations for the prevention and abatement of nuisances were reported.

Enforcement of weed law.—Nine hundred and forty-two notices were served during the year under the provisions of the weed law.

Smoke inspection.—Six hundred and forty-seven plants were under observation during the year. Six hundred and forty-nine violations of the law were reported. Fines and forfeitures amounted to \$200.

Eight-hour female labor law.—Two thousand and thirty-four establishments were registered and classified at the close of the fiscal year. Eighty-five complaints were received and acted upon. Twenty-three violations of the law were noted and prosecution instituted against the proprietors.

Child Welfare Society.—Congressional appropriation toward the maintenance of the Child Welfare Society ceased with the end of the fiscal year 1923. The appropriation heretofore given to the society was transferred to the health department for the establishment of a child hygiene service in that department. This service was put into operation July 1, 1923. During the fiscal year the total number of children under 2 years of age admitted to the welfare stations was 3,145. Between the ages of 2 and 6 years, 372 were admitted.

Pound service.—Two thousand two hundred and fifty-seven dogs found running at large were captured by the poundmaster, and 1,081 dogs were surrendered to him by the owners of such animals, during the year ending June 30, 1923. Two thousand and eighty

cats were also surrendered for destruction. The total number of animals of all kinds handled was 5,487.

Bureau of administration.—Ten thousand seven hundred and sixty letters and 7,129 oral complaints were received during the year and 12,651 letters were sent out by the department.

Bureau of vital statistics.—Seven thousand and fifty deaths, 8,953 births, and 465 stillbirths were recorded during the year. Two thousand three hundred and fifty-three transcripts from the records of deaths and births were issued.

BOARD OF CHARITIES.

The Board of Charities in its annual report reviews the work of penal, charitable, and correctional institutions under its supervision.

No marked changes in population of the dependent and criminal classes are noted: no abnormal conditions indicated.

Attention is again called to the fact that for considerable periods of time the jail is overcrowded, and it is recommended that the jail be enlarged or arrangements made for speedier trial and disposition of cases.

A notable event during the year was the opening of the psychopathic wards, the first unit of the Gallinger Municipal Hospital put into service. The marked increase in population of the psychopathic department since the opening of the new buildings indicates the need for this service. It is recommended that additional appropriation be made for the early construction of other ward buildings to replace the old wooden structures in which more than one-half of the patients are still housed.

It is again recommended that the commissioners be authorized to receive pay patients at the tuberculosis hospital and at the psychopathic wards of the Gallinger Hospital. This class of patients must be received in the interest of the public welfare and safety, and it becomes necessary in many instances to receive patients who might pay for their treatment if the law would permit.

Encouraging progress is noted in the construction of new buildings at the reformatory, and plans are well advanced for new buildings to replace the original temporary shacks at the workhouse.

The importance of a comprehensive statute providing for an indeterminate sentence and parole system and governing the operation of the penal institutions of the District is recommended.

Plans for a nurses' home at the tuberculosis hospital have been made, and bids for the building will soon be invited.

The Industrial Home School for White Children, which was closed for a time owing to differences between the Board of Children's Guardians and the Industrial Home School board, has been opened again under the new provision of law enacted by Congress last winter, placing the school under the management of the Board of Children's Guardians and providing for the appointment of members of that board by the commissioners.

Great satisfaction is expressed at the action of Congress last winter in amending the law so as to provide for the purchase of a site for the institution for feeble-minded, instead of requiring the institution to be placed on the site of the Home for the Aged and Infirm as was

CORONER.

The coroner states that during the fiscal year embraced in this report he made investigations to determine the cause of death as follows: Natural causes, 1,050; accidental, 255; suicides, 78; homicides, 59; a total of 1,442. Autopsies performed, 202. Inquests held, 124. The details of the work of this office are set out in the report of the coroner on file in the office of the secretary to the board.

EXPENSES.

Gas light.....	\$12. 18
Electric light.....	23. 37
Fuel.....	136. 63
Printing and supplies for morgue.....	52. 35
Repairs to morgue.....	325. 00
Ice.....	176. 54
Laundry.....	16. 28
Feed for horse.....	7. 49
Upkeep of automobile truck.....	234. 67
Autopsies.....	1, 430. 00
Witness fees (374 at \$1.25 each).....	467. 50
Jurors' fees.....	1, 890. 00
Taking testimony.....	620. 00
Total.....	5, 391. 51

BOARD OF PHARMACY.

During the year eight regular and one special meetings were held for the conduct of business. Four examinations were held, and as the results thereof license to practice pharmacy in the District of Columbia was granted to 32 applicants. Twenty-one applications were received for license to practice pharmacy through virtue of reciprocity with other States; all received favorable consideration.

The register shows the following outstanding licenses:

Series A.....	542
Series B.....	165
Series C.....	423
Total.....	1, 130

Sixteen permits have been renewed for the sale of poisons for use in the arts and as insecticides and seven permits were issued for the same.

The treasurer's books as audited show the following:

Balance on hand at last audit.....	\$605. 64
Total receipts.....	1, 358. 50
Disbursements:	\$1, 964. 14
Amount distributed to each member of the board, as per commissioners' order.....	600. 00
Supplies, postage, stationery, printing.....	211. 96
Treasurer's bond.....	5. 00
Secretary for clerical services.....	250. 00
Dues national association, annual.....	25. 00
Refund of fees.....	20. 00
Expense of delegates to convention.....	50. 00
	1, 161. 96
Balance cash on hand and in bank.....	802. 18

BOARD OF MEDICAL SUPERVISORS.

During the year the board of medical supervisors examined 90 applicants for license to practice medicine in the District of Columbia, 53 of whom were passed, 1 failed, 2 rejected, 5 withdrawn, and 29 under consideration.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS.

Balance on hand July 1, 1922, as shown by bank book and cashbook of the secretary and treasurer-----	\$1, 732. 69
Total receipts during the fiscal year, as shown by cashbook verified, being fees received from applicants-----	1, 736. 21
Outstanding check -----	9. 50
	3, 478. 40
Total disbursements during the fiscal year, as verified by canceled checks returned by the bank and by receipted bills in the invoice book-----	\$2, 176. 29
Balance on hand June 30, 1923, as shown by bank book of the District National Bank-----	1, 302. 11
	3, 478. 40

Of the balance of \$1,302.11, shown above, the following distributions for services were made:

Secretary-treasurer-----	\$500. 00
Members of the board of medical supervisors-----	500. 00
Members of the board of medical examiners-----	125. 00
Members of the board of homeopathic medical examiners-----	25. 00
Members of the board of examiners in midwifery-----	12. 00
	1, 162. 00

leaving an unobligated balance of \$130.61 in the hands of the treasurer of the board.

BOARD OF DENTAL EXAMINERS.

The board held two examinations—first, January 15 to 19, 1923, inclusive; second, June 18 to 22, 1923, inclusive.

At the January examination 25 applied, 2 passed, 2 were conditioned, 14 failed, and 2 applied but did not appear.

At the June examination 42 applied, 27 passed, 3 were conditioned, 9 failed, and 3 did not appear.

Thirty-four were licensed to practice during the year from June 30, 1922, to June 30, 1923.

The financial report is as follows:

Amount received from applicants-----	\$600. 75
Expenses of conducting examinations-----	63. 65
Balance-----	537. 10

The balance was distributed equally among the five members of the board.

THE NURSES' EXAMINING BOARD.

The nurses' examining board held 13 meetings during the year and two examinations for the registration of nurses. One hundred and thirty-four nurses took the examinations. Of this number 98

passed and 36 failed. One nurse was registered through reciprocity and three under the waiver. The total number registered during the year is 132. The training schools are operating on the basis of the three-year course.

The financial report is as follows:

Receipts:	
Balance on hand	\$46.38
Fees	658.00
Interest	4.03
Outstanding checks	52.80
Total	761.21
Expenditures:	
Fees refunded	29.00
Stationery and printing	83.75
Rent	60.00
Engrossing of certificates	23.65
Advertising examinations	5.00
Duplicate checks	45.25
Stamps and sundries	58.50
Salaries	400.00
Supplies for examinations	11.60
Total	716.75
Balance	44.46

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT BUREAU.

The public employment bureau placed in suitable employment during the year, 24,034 men and women. The work of the bureau was materially furthered by the cordial cooperation of the employers of labor in the District, and of the director general of the United States Employment Service, Mr. Francis I. Jones, with the result that 3,768 more persons were thus aided than during the preceding fiscal year.

It has been the aim of this bureau to give special attention to ex-service men seeking employment in order to acquire education.

MINIMUM WAGE BOARD.

On April 9, 1923, the Supreme Court of the United States decided in the case of *Jesse C. Adkins et al v. the Children's Hospital of the District of Columbia, etc.*, that the act of Congress approved September 19, 1918, which created the Minimum Wage Board of the District of Columbia, was unconstitutional and void, because of its abridgment of the right to contract about one's affairs other than which could only be justified by exceptional circumstances. The board thereupon ceased to function.

BUREAU OF INFORMATION.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, the bureau of information created by the order of the commissioners on May 19, 1922, for the convenience of the public who visit the District Building, was called upon for oral information by more than 50,000 visitors to that building.

The information officer, in his capacity as notary public, administered free of charge thousands of oaths of office; acknowledgments

to official instruments, and oaths to others whose business with the District government required such action.

As stated in the report for 1922, the purview of the service of this bureau covers many subjects disconnected with municipal service, but of varied degree of importance to the visitors, and in a large number of cases, conservative of the time and labor of other branches of the service in the District Building which would otherwise be appealed to for the data so furnished.

PUBLICATIONS.

The following publications were issued by the health department during the past fiscal year:

Name of publication.	Number printed.	Cost of preparation.	Cost of printing.	Number distributed by mail, messenger, etc.	Cost of distribution.
Annual report, 1922..	500	Unable to estimate.....	\$1,020.00	About 300.....	\$2.16.
Weekly report.....	100	105 hours, annually, \$1,200; typist, \$50; 105 hours, annually, \$600; messenger, \$25; 26 reams paper, at 55 cents.	14.30	100 weekly....	\$1 per week.
Monthly bulletin, grades of milk.	500	24 days per annum, \$1,400; inspector-clerk, \$93.33.	314.80	500 monthly...	\$5 per month.

* * * * *

ROADWAY PAVEMENTS.

The accompanying table shows the area in square yards of new roadway pavements laid and old roadway pavements resurfaced during the year, with the totals in square yards and miles of the various kinds of pavements at the close of the fiscal year.

Comparative statement showing character and extent of roadway pavements.

	Existing amount on June 30, 1922.		New pavement laid during year, square yards.	Pavements replaced during year, square yards.	Existing amount on June 30, 1923.	
	Square yards.	Miles.			Square yards.	Miles.
Sheet asphalt and coal tar.....	3,422,397	182.21	21,079	.....	3,443,476	183.36
Asphalt blocks.....	612,205	31.11	.....	.....	612,205	31.11
Asphaltic surface.....	.....	.....	44,996	.....	44,996	3.12
Durax blocks.....	17,968	.57	.....	.....	17,968	.57
Asphaltic or bituminous concrete:						
On concrete base.....	78,708	4.58	.....	.....	78,708	4.58
On stone base.....	51,088	2.68	.....	34,882	46,206	2.47
Cement concrete.....	261,705	14.07	42,506	.....	304,211	16.35
Granite block and rubble.....	357,190	19.54	.....	{¹ 688 221,897 }	334,605	18.35
Vitrified block.....	17,390	1.04	.....	.....	17,390	1.04
Cobble.....	36,374	1.52	.....	.....	36,374	1.52
Macadam (estimated).....	1,874,310	120.58	.....	{¹ 9,461 ² 23,099 3 5,524 }	1,836,225	117.76
Gravel and unimproved (traveled).....	.....	149.34	.....	.....	.....	156.51
Gutters on asphalt streets.....	241,364	.....	1,553	.....	242,917	.....
Pavements maintained by street railways	564,525	.....	3,509	.....	568,034	.....
Gutters on asphaltic concrete streets.....	11,201	.....	.....	3 611	10,590	.....
Total.....	7,546,425	527.24	113,643	66,162	7,593,906	536.74

¹ Sheet asphalt.² Asphaltic surface.³ Cement concrete.

The sums appropriated for expenditures during the year under this head were as follows:

For repairing old roadway pavements, including asphalt resurfacing--	\$460, 000
For paving new roadways-----	233, 500
For repair of suburban roads-----	250, 000
For grading streets, alleys, and roads-----	35, 000

The prices paid under contracts for roadway pavements during the year were as follows:

Laying sheet-asphalt pavement (2½-inch asphalt surface, 2-inch binder, before compression) with 6-inch concrete base:	
Class A—a natural pitch lake asphalt-----	\$3. 21
Class B—a reduced oil asphalt-----	3. 11
Laying vitrified block with 6-inch concrete base-----	3. 21
Laying 6-inch concrete roadway-----	1. 87

Unit costs of contract work showed no recession, except as to concrete roadways. Funds for paving roadways were quite inadequately provided and this fact, with the continued development of new streets by builders, created a situation little short of deplorable.

A fund of \$50,000 provided this year for the paving of roadways on deposit by the property owners of one-half the cost was entirely consumed. At the end of the year all work appropriated for had been completed, except two small items which were approaching completion under contract.

A special asphalt-surface mixture, designed by Major Besson, was laid somewhat experimentally on certain granite-block roadways and certain fairly heavily traveled suburban macadam roadways as a part of the year's work.

SUBURBAN STREETS AND ROADS.

The work of repairs to suburban roads consisted almost entirely of maintenance of the suburban road and street system and of roadways on unimproved streets where buildings had recently been erected. Repairs to the macadam roads were made principally by patching with bituminous materials and stone. Bituminous surface treatment was given to about 652,000 square yards of macadam roads at an average cost of about 6 cents per square yard. In this treatment there were used 83,179 gallons of road oil, 72,860 gallons of tar, and 8,000 tons of gravel and stone chips. Previous recommendations for paving the principal trunk highways to the District line as rapidly as funds can be provided and for legislation limiting the weights of loaded vehicles are renewed.

MUNICIPAL ASPHALT PLANT.

The District of Columbia has operated a portable municipal asphalt plant in the repair of asphalt pavements and bituminous macadam roadways for the past 12 years. During the year 1923 the plant was operated for a period of 247 days, with a total output of 211,500 cubic feet of material, or an average daily output of 856 cubic feet. Additional asphalt material for street repairs supplemental to that furnished by the asphalt plant was purchased under contract from the Cranford Co. to the amount of 6,103.20 cubic feet.

The details of the cost of the operation of the plant are contained in the report of the engineer of highways.

SIDEWALKS AND ALLEYS.

The sum of \$250,000 was appropriated for paving sidewalks and alleys in all parts of the District and the sum of \$15,000 for laying sidewalks and setting curbs around Government buildings, reservations, and parks. Sidewalks are paved with cement concrete under contract, while alleys are paved with cement concrete by day labor forces.

One-half of the cost of curb, sidewalk, and alley pavement is assessed against the abutting property, except that abutting public buildings and public reservations. The contract for laying sidewalks during the year was as follows:

For large jobs adjoining paved streets, per square yard, exclusive of grading -----	\$1.63
For large jobs adjoining unpaved streets and for small jobs, per square yard, exclusive of grading -----	1.80

BRIDGES.

The expenditures from the appropriation for the construction and repair of bridges amounted to \$24,890.97, and there is an obligation of about \$2,300 on contract 7737 for reconstruction of Kenilworth Avenue culvert.

The appropriation for Anacostia and Highway Bridges were expended practically in full.

Contract with the Allen H. Rogers Co. for construction of nine reinforced concrete stalls at the District stone trestle completed at a cost of \$11,579.57.

Contract with Royal J. Mansfield for construction of 12 reinforced concrete bins at the District stone trestle completed at a cost of \$15,062.60.

Contract with Royal J. Mansfield for repairs to Calvert Street Bridge over Rock Creek completed at a cost of \$20,221.09.

Contract with the Cambridge Manufacturing Co. for construction of reinforced concrete wharf deck at Wharf No. 6 completed at a cost of \$14,665.69.

Contract entered into with the Pamfils Constructing Co. for painting three spans of the Anacostia River Bridge. Work is in progress.

Contract entered into with the William F. Cush Co. for reconstruction of culvert in line of Kenilworth Avenue NE., north of Benning Viaduct. Work is in progress.

INSPECTION OF ASPHALTS AND CEMENTS.

Through this office, tests, chemical and physical, are made of materials used in street and road improvements, likewise all cements used in buildings and in sewer construction, fuel oils used at the municipal asphalt plant, and miscellaneous tests of any materials requiring such. Complete tests made during the year were: Asphalt materials, 881; oils, 16; pitch, 3; tars, 3; sand, 90; gravel, 70; stone, 35; limestone dust, 21; cements, 8,946, representing 89,468 barrels; miscellaneous materials, 2,951; total, 13,016.

The samples of asphalts tested represent 2,008 tons, 1,270 tons used by contractors for laying roadways and 738 tons used at municipal asphalt plant in producing paving materials.

Of the materials tested there were rejected 2,155 cubic yards of sand and 1,600 cubic yards of gravel.

SURVEYOR'S OFFICE.

The work of this office is divided into three classes:

1. Work done for private parties for which a fee is charged, the amount charged being regulated by schedule of fees approved by the commissioners.

2. Work done for the various coordinate departments of the District of Columbia and for the Federal Government, no fee being charged for this class of work.

3. Surveys, descriptions, and preparation and report covering all condemnation cases for streets, alleys, and parks.

The first class of work, or private work, for which a fee is charged, has greatly increased over any previous year. This increase has been continuous since the close of the war, and has grown to such proportions that the present office force can not perform the work promptly for the public.

The number of lots, or parts of lots, surveyed during the past year was 6,065, while those of the previous year numbered 5,043; surveys to verify walls under construction for the past year 1,893, previous year 1,700; number of lots inspected where new buildings are being erected for the past year 3,305, previous year 3,022; number of lots created by subdivision during past year 4,632, previous year 3,878; estimates or orders for work to be done past year 12,659, previous year 11,320; number of plats prepared for private parties during past year 10,308, previous year 8,658; total number of surveys during past year 5,122, previous year 4,135; total number of plats drawn the past year 14,669, previous year 12,100.

This shows an increase in all classes of work in this office for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, over the year ended June 30, 1922.

The total receipts for the past fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, amounted to \$48,461.90, against \$40,503.80 for the previous fiscal year ended June 30, 1922. The amount collected during the past year is in excess of the appropriation for the maintenance of the office.

HIGHWAY PLAN.

The appropriation of \$2,000 for marking permanently on the ground the permanent system of highways has been expended in running out street lines and marking block corners by permanent monuments. About 125 granite monuments have been placed at different parts of the District to mark the street plan, some of the important streets marked being Alabama Avenue, Benning Road, Forty-sixth Street, Division Avenue, Sheriff Road, and South Capitol Street.

This appropriation has been advantageously expended and should be continued.

Changes in the highway plan can be made after plans providing for such changes are drawn up by the commissioners and approved by the highway commission composed of the Secretary of War, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Chief of Engineers, United States

Army, with certain other legal requirements to be carried out by the commissioners of the District.

Several such changes have been made during the past year and are now of record in the surveyor's office, as follows: (1) Seventeenth Street between Blagden Avenue and Colorado Avenue NW., (2) Crittenden Street between Sixteenth Street and Seventeenth Street NW., (3) Alabama Avenue between Thirty-first Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE.; Austin Street, east of Thirty-second Street SE.; Suitland Road south of Bowen Road, SE.; and (4) Alabama Avenue (Hamilton Road) between Twenty-second Street and Twenty-fourth Street SE.

SUBDIVISIONS.

The great building activity going on throughout the District has been the cause of the greatly increased number of subdivisions recorded in the surveyor's office. During the year the subdivision regulations were revised, approved by the commissioners and published in pamphlet form.

The number of subdivisions prepared during the past fiscal year was 537, this being an increase of 55 over the previous year. The number of subdivisions recorded was 496, an increase of 26 over the previous fiscal year.

CONDEMNATION CASES.

During the past fiscal year there were before the courts 42 street and park condemnation cases and 17 alley cases; 23 new condemnation street and park cases were filed in court, and 12 new alley cases; 13 street and park cases and 9 alley cases were confirmed by the court. The magnitude of this class of work will be shown by the fact that the total amount of damages allowed for the property taken for streets, parks, etc., was \$130,730.39, and the amount allowed for alleys \$14,979.64.

The following were some of the important condemnation cases considered during the past fiscal year: Establishment of building restriction lines on Kalorama Road, Wyoming Avenue, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Streets, and the opening of Legation Street, Eastern Avenue, Fifteenth Street, Hamlin Street, Southern Avenue, Jenifer Street, Forty-second Street, Fourteenth Street, streets in Barry farm (east of Nichols Avenue), Ninth Street, Underwood Street, Tuckerman Street, and many others.

Some criticism has been made to opening streets by condemnation in which the entire cost is assessed as benefits because of the necessary delay in making streets physically usable, but it is believed the law has been a great benefit in developing the District in an orderly, comprehensive way.

The erection of improvements has prevented the opening of many important streets, as the assessment for benefits in such cases is so great the property owners could not equitably stand the assessments. In such cases there should be an appropriation to bear part of the cost. Many localities have been retarded in development by reason of streets being thus blocked, and the sooner some provision is made for opening these streets the better it will be for the development of the street plan and the orderly growth of the city.

PARKS.

The L'Enfant plan of the Federal city of 1791 provided for a magnificent street and park plan. This plan stopped at Boundary Street (now Florida Avenue), beyond which there is no park plan, and if provision is not made for the acquisition of land for parks over this area there will be a great lack of parks through the outlying sections. There are many beauty spots where magnificent trees exist which should be acquired before the rapid development of the city destroys them.

The surveyor's office has from time to time recommended specific tracts for parks, where there is danger of their being lost for park purposes. These are Piney Branch Parkway, east of Sixteenth Street, Klinge Road Valley, and Patterson tract. Attention is especially called to rapid encroachment up Piney Branch and Klinge Road Valley. These sites have already been reduced in area, and it is believed that Piney Branch Parkway will be lost if not acquired within the next year.

Klinge Ford Valley should be made the link connecting Potomac Park on the south with Rock Creek Park on the north. This would eliminate the necessity of traffic passing through Zoological Park, which is a playground for children, where traffic should be restricted.

CIVIL WAR FORTS.

Steps should be taken to preserve the 40 or more fort sites and batteries constructed for the defense of Washington during the Civil War. Some of these sites have already been destroyed by progress of improvements, but some are still well preserved. All are of great historic interest. Beautiful boulevards on high ground overlooking the city should be constructed connecting these sites.

SMALL PARKS.

Many small park areas have been acquired under the appropriation for this purpose. This appropriation has been reduced from time to time from \$25,000 to \$5,000 for the current fiscal year. The acquisition of these small areas frequently prevents the construction of some cheap and unsightly improvements, and is a matter of great importance, and the appropriation should be increased and continued.

There were 24 small park cases before the courts for condemnation during the past year, some of which have been confirmed.

STREET PARKING.

Some study should be given to the question of a uniform treatment for parking space within the street lines of the residential districts.

A specific case in this connection is the parking along Sixteenth Street. The title to this land is in the Federal Government, under the jurisdiction and control of the commissioners. The property owner has the benefit of the parking area in his front yard, for which he pays no rent or taxes. It is thought that this area should

be beautified and the appearance of the residential streets much improved. At present all kinds of treatment of these parking areas can be seen. Some are on terraces and some without terraces, and some have fences and hedges and others are without them. It is believed that each block should be similarly treated and the appearance of the city thereby much improved.

To accomplish this result legislation would probably be necessary and an initial appropriation needed, after which it might be reimbursed by assessment against the abutting property owners similar to the establishment and maintenance of sidewalks.

TREES AND PARKING.

The number of trees along the curbs on the streets of the District of Columbia at the close of the fiscal year was 104,593. Only 58 trees were planted in their permanent positions on the streets during the year, as the planting of trees on the streets had to be abandoned, due to the loss of two tracts of ground which had been used as tree nurseries for a number of years.

The nursery at Fort Dupont is still being used for the propagation of trees for street planting. Two hundred and eighty-seven elm, 17 Norway maple, 62 red maple, and 105 sugar maple seedlings were planted in the nursery rows at the Fort Dupont site.

In September, 1922, the Chief of Engineers, United States Army, granted permission to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to use a tract of the reclaimed ground along the Anacostia River, immediately upstream from Bolling Field. Twelve hundred elm, 173 pin oak, and 700 red oak seedlings were set out in the nursery rows at the last-named tract of ground.

The systematic trimming of trees was resumed during the year, and commencing at Eighteenth Street NW. as the eastern limit, with B Street and Florida Avenue as the south and north boundaries, the work was continued westward to and including all streets in Georgetown. In addition to the systematic trimming a small force of men accomplished much trimming upon individual requests. There was a noticeable increase in the number of requests received from individuals for trimming trees throughout the city. The total number of trees trimmed during the year was 12,667.

The sum of \$4,793.11 was expended during the year to remove weeds from uninclosed public parkings along the streets of the city. One thousand three hundred and fifty-five permits were issued to regulate the grade of the parking in connection with building operations.

The purchase of ground for a permanent tree nursery would be a most desirable step in point of economy, after consideration of the fact that two nurseries have recently been abandoned, and that there is no assurance as to the length of time we can occupy the ground we are now using to propagate trees for planting along the thoroughfares of this city. The rapid growth of the city makes it almost imperative that consideration be given toward legislation in order to obtain an appropriation to purchase a permanent nursery site.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF CITY REFUSE AND STREET AND ALLEY
CLEANING.

The outstanding and interesting feature of the work done by the city refuse division was the amount of money returned into the Treasury from products sold. There was received from garbage grease and tankage and from salvaged material a total of \$356,172.40.

This exceeded anything done in previous years. This revenue is accounted for by the large amount of garbage handled and by the good prices received for grease and baled paper.

The appropriation for the collection and disposal of city refuse was \$800,000, so that the return was $44\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of this sum, or the actual expense of collecting and disposing of all city refuse (other than street-cleaning material) was slightly less than \$444,000.

The collection and disposal of 145,432 cubic yards of ashes was a total loss with no salvage, except in so far as certain streets and alleys were improved by the deposited ashes in them, and cost \$117,727.67. The amount paid to contractors for the collection and disposal of night soil and of dead animals was \$20,860. Salaries not allocated to any particular service were \$8,940. So that the expense of the collection and disposal of garbage and trash was \$641,449.81.

The appropriation for dust prevention, cleaning of streets and alleys, was \$375,000.

During the winter there were three light snows, which gave the department the opportunity to try out the snow law enacted by Congress at the previous session. When the sidewalks were not cleaned by the occupant of the abutting property, the work was done by the District. The expenditure by the city refuse division from the appropriation of \$10,000 under this act was \$6,832.08.

BUILDING OPERATIONS.

The estimated value of building construction, including repairs, during the year was \$57,638,638, an increase of \$21,441,579, as compared with the fiscal year 1922.

The number of permits issued was 12,191, an increase of 1,890 over the previous year. This is the greatest number of permits ever issued for any fiscal year by the building division. The total number of business buildings erected was 937, a decrease of 116. There were 3,478 new buildings, a decrease of 32. The number of apartments erected was 81, an increase of 21; 2,460 dwellings, an increase of 63. There were 5,938 permits granted to repair, an increase of 615.

During the past year there were issued 2,585 conforming certificates of occupancy and 118 nonconforming certificates, the fees therefor totaling \$3,523.50, as compared with \$3,305.50 for the year 1922.

Attention is invited to the fact that the receipts of this bureau for the fiscal year were \$70,403.48; the salaries amounted to \$54,998.98, a difference of \$15,404.50. This increase of receipts above expenses indicates to a marked degree the additional labor imposed upon the employees, and should dictate, it is believed, a corresponding increase in salaries.

CONSTRUCTION OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

During the year 18 buildings were under construction as follows: A 4-room addition to the Monroe School, which was completed August 12, 1922; a 4-room addition to the Deanwood School, completed August 15, 1922; a 12-room addition to the Wheatley School, completed October 28, 1922; an 8-room addition to the John Eaton School, completed October 28, 1922; an 8-room addition to the Lucretia Mott School, completed August 12, 1922; an 8-room building known as Richard Kingman School, completed October 2, 1922; an 8-room addition to the Buchanan School, completed October 28, 1922; an 8-room building to replace the Bell School, completed March 3, 1923; the construction of the superstructure of the new Eastern High School, which was completed December 9, 1922; the Smothers School, which will probably be completed about September 22, 1923; the addition to the Lovejoy School, which will probably be completed about October 16, 1923; the Garrison School addition, which will probably be completed about November 30, 1923; the George Bancroft School, which will probably be completed about January 11, 1924; the Langley Junior High School, which will be completed about November 1, 1923; the Macfarland Junior High School, which will probably be completed about November 1, 1923; the Chain Bridge Road School, which will probably be completed about October 12, 1923; the construction of a head house on Wharf No. 6, and the erection of new police station No. 12.

Preliminary studies for the home for the feeble-minded have been made and a general program mapped out.

Besides the preparation of plans and specifications for the above buildings, plans and specifications for about 40 other pieces of work, such as heating systems in engine houses, cells, and other work in police stations, repairs to heating systems in school buildings, etc., were prepared in this office, amounting to \$63,458. The contracts entered into by this office for the fiscal year amounted to a total of \$1,498,377.

REPAIRS TO MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

All municipal buildings are kept in repair under the direction of the municipal architect. During the year only such repairs were made as would prevent further deterioration of the structures, as the continuation of high wages and high prices of materials prevented the doing of more extensive repair work with the funds that were available.

The appropriations for repair work and the expenditures of same were as follows:

For the repairs to school buildings: \$250,000 was appropriated, and all was expended but \$221.90.

For repairs to engine houses: \$20,000 was appropriated, and all was expended but \$16.74.

Repairs to stations: \$7,000 was appropriated, and all was expended but \$4.30.

Repairs to police court building: \$2,000 was appropriated, and all was expended but \$14.20.

In addition to the above, repairs were made on various buildings under the supervision of the superintendent of repairs to the amount of \$114,655.55 out of appropriations controlled by other departments.

Steam boilers in 100 District buildings were inspected and repaired.

WORKHOUSE AND REFORMATORY.

The work at the workhouse and reformatory during the past year has been quite satisfactory. Five shops, two washhouses, two disciplinary wards, and one dormitory building have been completed and the foundations of two additional wards started. Plans are being made for the domestic building.

Considerable progress has been made on the industrial railroad at Lorton; the grading is practically completed, and nearly a half mile of track has been laid.

THE DISTRICT BUILDING.

The District Building was cared for by the various units of this department. There were consumed 2,017 tons of coal, which averaged 13.8 per cent ash. There were removed 537 cubic yards of ashes, at a cost of \$267.61. Repairs made in the power plant included rebuilding two smoke-consuming arches and rebuilding No. 2 stoker. There were purchased two Sangamo watt meters, one new turbine head, and two sets of pins and cutters for boring boiler tubes. Electric current generated amounted to 485,740 kilowatt hours. The electrical department renewed the drum counterweight cables on six passenger elevators and made the usual repairs and installations. The print shop completed work amounting to \$7,547.51, and the photograph and blue-print shop \$2,891.30. The woodwork and paint shop repainted the walls and ceilings of 27 rooms, in addition to the refinishing of floors and general repairs. It is again recommended that additional floor space be acquired to relieve the congestion in the offices.

MUNICIPAL GARAGE.

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, the municipal garage maintained and kept in running condition 44 automobiles. A laboring mechanical force of eight men made the necessary repairs and operated automobiles for departments having no drivers. The garage was kept open night and day, all machines being washed and supplied with oil and gasoline by the night force, who also served as watchmen.

The electric light wiring of the garage was uncovered and found defective, and it was deemed necessary to rewire the entire garage.

The total operating expense for the maintenance of the 44 automobiles, including gasoline, oil, tires, labor, and miscellaneous supplies, amounted to \$18,038.64, or an average of \$409.96 for each car, or \$0.0731 per mile. The average mileage per car was 5,602.3 miles.

PLUMBING AND PLUMBING INSPECTION.

During the year the plumbing division made 42,467 regular inspections in the field, as compared with 38,105 the preceding year. The

increase in the number of inspections was due in part to the increase in building construction during the year and in part to the increase in the number of complaints received by this office of insanitary plumbing in old houses or defective downspouts and gutters. The average number of inspections per day per man was 15, and the greatest number in any one day was 35.

It is estimated that the total cost of new plumbing work installed in private buildings was \$3,397,074, and of repairs and remodeling work \$2,072,772. No record was kept of the large amount of plumbing work done under the officers in charge of such work in the general Government buildings.

There were nine cases prosecuted in police court, and a total of \$95 was collected in fines.

Of the 151 cases prosecuted under the drainage and nuisance acts for failure to connect with sewer or make necessary repairs, in 27 cases the work was done by the District and the cost thereof assessed against the property. There are 10 cases still pending under notice, and the balance were disposed of through the owner or agent doing the work or otherwise.

PLUMBING BOARD.

There were 24 sessions of the board for examining candidates for licensing as master plumbers and gasfitters. The total number of candidates examined was 72; the number of original candidates examined for licenses was 15, of whom 3 passed; and of the 57 who had been previously examined for licensing, 15 passed and 42 failed.

PUBLIC-CONVENIENCE STATIONS.

There were four stations in operation throughout the year, open from 6 a. m. until midnight, with two shifts of attendants, each working nine hours per day. The total patronage of the stations was about 12,500,000. The cash receipts for the year amounted to \$8,441.12, and consisted of 5-cent fees received for use of pay toilets, rental of clean towels, and commissions received on telephone service, bootblack stands, etc.

INSPECTION OF STEAM BOILERS.

The number of steam boilers inspected by the inspector of steam boilers during the year was 460, including 35 belonging to the District of Columbia. Six boilers were condemned as unfit for further use. The compensation of the inspector of steam boilers is paid from fees collected from private owners of boilers. The total amount of fees reported by that official was \$2,300, and the expense of inspection \$325, leaving a net compensation of \$1,975.

EXAMINATION OF STEAM ENGINEERS.

The board of examiners of steam engineers held 52 meetings and examined 262 applicants, of whom 143 were found competent and 119 incompetent.

STREET LIGHTING.

There are 21,256 public lamps of all kinds in the avenues, streets, alleys, etc., under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, as follows:

Gas, mantle:		
Single burner-----	10,759	
Double burner-----	152	
		10,911
Electric, arc:		
6.6-ampere magnetite-----	283	
4.0-ampere magnetite-----	504	
		787
Electric, incandescent:		
600-candlepower, series-----	51	
400-candlepower, series-----	2	
250-candlepower, series-----	168	
200-candlepower, multiple-----	64	
100-candlepower, series-----	4,087	
100-candlepower, multiple-----	98	
60-candlepower, series-----	4,179	
60-candlepower, multiple-----	293	
		8,942
Street designation:		
Gas-----	405	
Electric-----	211	
		616
Total-----		21,256

There was a net increase during the year of 548 lamps.

The increase in aggregate candlepower of the street lighting system under the jurisdiction of the commissioners is from approximately 1,752,100 to approximately 1,848,300, less than 5.5 per cent; but 62 lamps, aggregating 32,300 candlepower, accrued by transfer of jurisdiction, leaving the actual increase less than 3.7 per cent.

Four 4-ampere magnetite arc lamps were added, including two at north approach to Francis Scott Key Bridge; 37 incandescent lamps replaced gas lamps on East Capitol Street at and near new Eastern High School; 39 incandescents replaced gas in Fifteenth and Seventeenth Streets, K Street to Massachusetts Avenue, to effect relief of traffic situation in Sixteenth Street; small temporary installations were made on improved posts for observation, experimental, and test purposes; the remainder of the additions were in lots of six or less, widely scattered, to partly meet the demand in newly built-up suburban sections.

The street lighting, as a whole, is distinctly inadequate, and a comprehensive material improvement should be inaugurated at once.

The situation with respect to the several suits at law against certain railway companies for recovery of sums expended in maintaining lights adjacent to their respective rights of way remains essentially as stated in 1920 and succeeding reports.

SIGNAL SYSTEMS—FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH, POLICE PATROL SIGNAL AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

There were 782 fire-alarm boxes in service at the end of the year, 663 on underground and 119 on overhead wires, a net increase of 43 over the preceding year; 1,266 box fire alarms and 1,560 local alarms

were received and transmitted during the year, of which 156 box and 54 local were false. The number of box circuits in commission has been increased by 5, to 35, and redistribution made, relieving the more seriously overloaded.

There were 490 police-patrol boxes in service at the end of the year, 385 on underground and 105 on overhead wires, an increase of 3 over the preceding year.

There were 1,550 telephones connected to the District system at the end of the year, and 28 in use as portable sets by fire and electrical departments, an increase of 97 in the year.

The number of cells of storage battery in service on fire-alarm, police-patrol, and local circuits remains unchanged at 2,174.

There were in service on the composite signals system (fire alarm, police, and telephone) on June 30, 1923, 172.97 miles of underground cable, containing 6,902.60 miles of conductors, and 178.45 miles of aerial conductors, a grand total of 7,081.05 miles of conductors, a net increase of 446.20 miles of conductors. Reserve capacity of cables is below requirement of demand and below safe emergency provision. Provision for expansion is again presented as an urgent requirement.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTION.

The total number of permits issued for installation of wires and apparatus for electric light, heat, and power purposes on private premises, not including distribution or other plants of public-service companies, during the year, was 9,791, compared with 8,029 in the preceding year, representing approximately 9,271 kilowatts capacity of utilization equipment. The total sum in fees paid for permits was \$16,164, compared with \$13,861. The annual increase of service to be rendered continues, and neither adequate nor satisfactory service can be rendered with the number of inspectors engaged.

Supervision was exercised over the erection, taking down, and moving of an aggregate of 1,555 line and 186 guy poles, and 591 pole-guy anchors, and of the stringing of overhead wires in streets and other public spaces. The total of recorded wire-supporting poles in the District at the end of the year was: Line, 20,612; guy, 1,347; total, 21,959; compared with a total of 20,914 at the end of the preceding year, a net increase of 1,054 compared with 912 and 348 for the next two preceding years, indicative of the continuance of the exceptional activity in suburban development. There has been no increase in the number of telephone poles in streets and avenues within "the prescribed area" of the act of Congress regulating the use of telephone wires in the District of Columbia, approved June 30, 1902.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The electrical department has cooperated with the municipal architect and other District officers, consulting and counseling, preparing plans, specifications, and estimates, and supervising electrical work. This service has been exceptional in extent, due to activities in school building and improvement.

HARBOR FRONT.

The annual rental of the wharves on that part of the river front under the control of the commissioners as of June 30, 1923, follows:

Washington Channel.....	¹ \$22,763.38
Anacostia Channel.....	400.00
Georgetown Channel.....	848.00
	34,011.38

The actual water frontage of the District of Columbia devoted to commerce, with the exception of canals, is about 2 miles. The total available water front is 18 miles, of which about 8 miles is set aside for parks and for other purposes of the United States. The largest amount of wharf property under the control of the commissioners is along the Washington Channel.

The new harbor police station and dock, the dock of the fire boat, the District morgue, the municipal fish wharves and market, and the District workhouse and sand wharves are located on the Washington Channel between the south curb line of N Street and Thirteenth Street. The balance of the frontage is leased by steamboat companies, bathhouses, lumber dealers, etc.

A more noteworthy project than one which would give the National Capital a useful and attractive water front could not be initiated. Civic organizations, municipal officials, and others have been advocating an improvement in the Washington water front for many years, and, notwithstanding the present policy of economy in governmental expenditures, it is believed that initial funds for this purpose should be appropriated in the near future and additional funds provided progressively each year until the project has been completed.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE-DISPOSAL SYSTEMS.

The construction and maintenance of the sewerage system and the sewage-disposal system of the District of Columbia is placed under a division in charge of the sanitary engineer.

The length of main and pipe sewers constructed during the year was 12.01 miles. The total length of main and pipe sewers on June 30, 1923, was 775.98 miles, of which 153.82 miles are main sewers and 622.16 miles are pipe sewers. In addition to the above new sewer work, 108 storm-water catch basins were constructed during the year, bringing the total number to 5,883.

There was expended during the year on new extensions of the sewerage system the sum of \$389,721.18, with no expenditure on the sewage-disposal system; however, \$40,000 was obligated for expenditures in the fiscal year 1924. The total cost of the sewerage system to June 30, 1923, was \$15,802,236.46. The total cost of the sewage-disposal system to the same date was \$5,975,232.96, making a total cost of the complete system to June 30, 1923, of \$21,777,469.42.

The main sewerage pumping station and the three substations were in continuous operation throughout the year, handling the sewage of practically the entire District. In addition, the main

¹ Includes receipts from rentals at the municipal fish market.

station pumped storm water from the 900-acre low level area flanking Pennsylvania Avenue between the Peace Monument and Fifteenth Street. At the main station the combined pumpage of sewage and storm water amounted to 25,968,718,950 gallons during the year. The Poplar Point substation pumped 721,841,896 gallons, the Rock Creek substation 270,311,836 gallons, and Woodridge substation 18,244,246 gallons of sewage during the year. Eliminating the Rock Creek and Woodridge substations, which deliver their discharge to the main station, the above would indicate a mean daily pumpage of 73,124,816 gallons. The coal consumption at the main sewerage pumping station for the year amounted to 3,986 tons.

Pursuant to act of Congress approved September 1, 1916, to protect streams flowing through United States parks and reservations in the District of Columbia from pollution and the act of the Maryland State Legislature approved April 10, 1918, negotiations are continuing with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission governing the conditions under which Maryland sewage may be diverted through the District sewers to the District pumping stations. In advance of carrying out any terms as finally agreed upon, it will be necessary to extend the three principal interceptors to the District line at an estimated cost of \$955,000.

Constant increase in the size of the sewerage system with no corresponding increase in the funds available for cleaning is causing a gradual falling behind in this work and increasing the danger of property damage during heavy rainstorms through the overcharging of uncleaned sewers; also insufficient cleaning of catch basins is resulting in rotting of sludge with a consequent health menace.

Lack of appropriations in the past has held up construction of necessary suburban trunk sewers required to provide outlets for service sewers and to properly take care of the drainage from newly paved streets until funds of approximately \$3,000,000 are now required for necessary construction.

Relief sewers in the older sections of the city are urgently needed to carry off drainage not properly disposed of at present because of the inadequate size of some of the older sewers.

Attention is again called to the inability of the division to keep abreast of the building activities with proper sewer facilities. The fiscal year ended with service sewers ordered constructed for the service of new and existing buildings, estimated to cost \$161,337, with all funds for the year expended or obligated.

WATER MAINS.

During the year 83,849 feet, or 15.9 miles, of water mains were laid, an increase of 4.1 miles over length laid last year, making the total length of mains now in service 674 miles, at an aggregate cost of \$4,801,863.63 paid from water department funds.

WATER CONSUMPTION.

The mean daily consumption for the fiscal year was 63,982,461 gallons, giving a mean daily per capita consumption of 142 gallons, estimated on a population of 450,000.

The total pumpage for the year was 12,180,790,430 gallons.

The total coal burned was 7,632 tons.

The cost of operating pumps for the year was \$115,748.16, as against \$102,637.92 for fiscal year 1922; thus making the cost of pumping 1,000,000 gallons of water into the mains \$9.58, as against \$8.74 for the preceding year, due to the increased cost of fuel.

Underground leakage found and stopped during the year aggregated a saving of 755,000 gallons daily.

The financial statement of the water revenues and expenditures will be found in the report of the auditor.

WATER METERS.

Two thousand seven hundred and seventy-nine new meters were installed during the year. Sixty-seven thousand five hundred and sixty-seven, or 86.9 per cent of the total water services are now metered.

Very respectfully,

CUNO H. RUDOLPH,
JAMES F. OYSTER,
J. F. BELL,

Commissioners of the District of Columbia.





52

